Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.36 JULY
US $1.50
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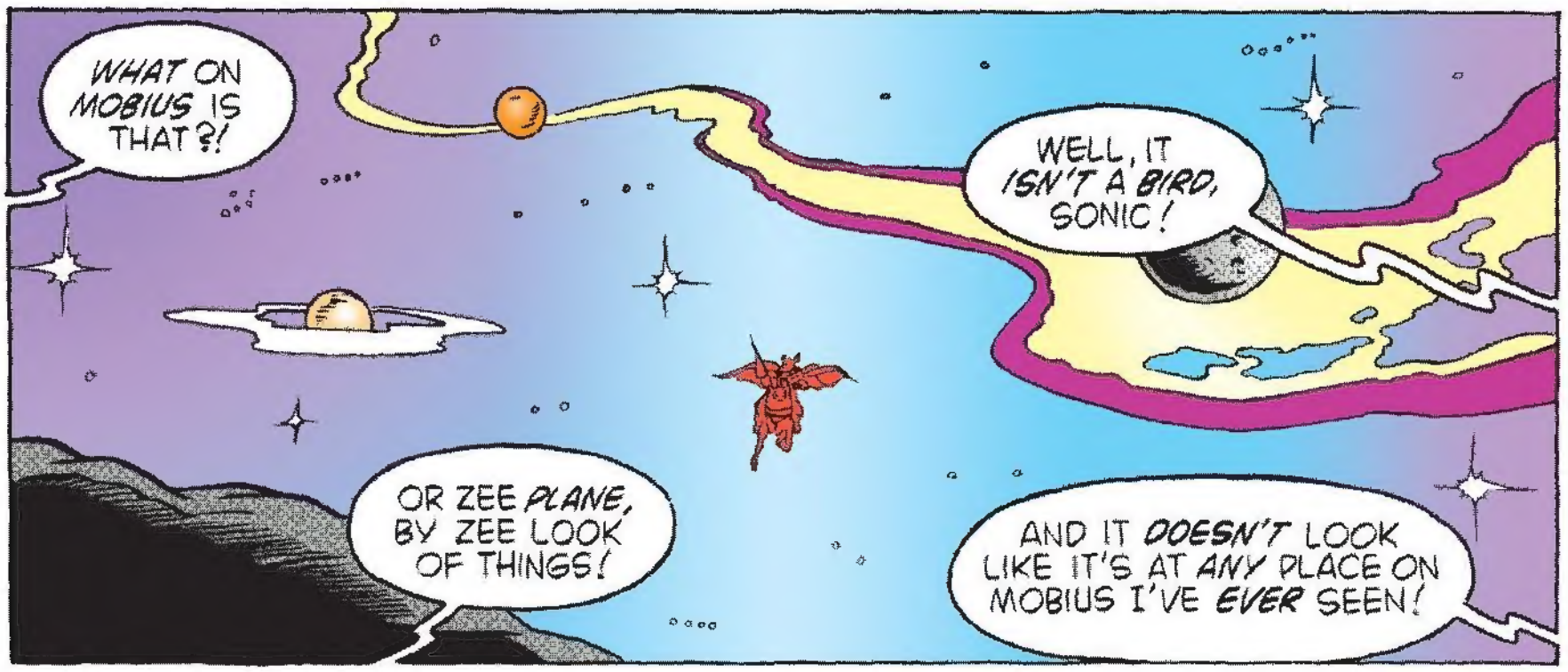
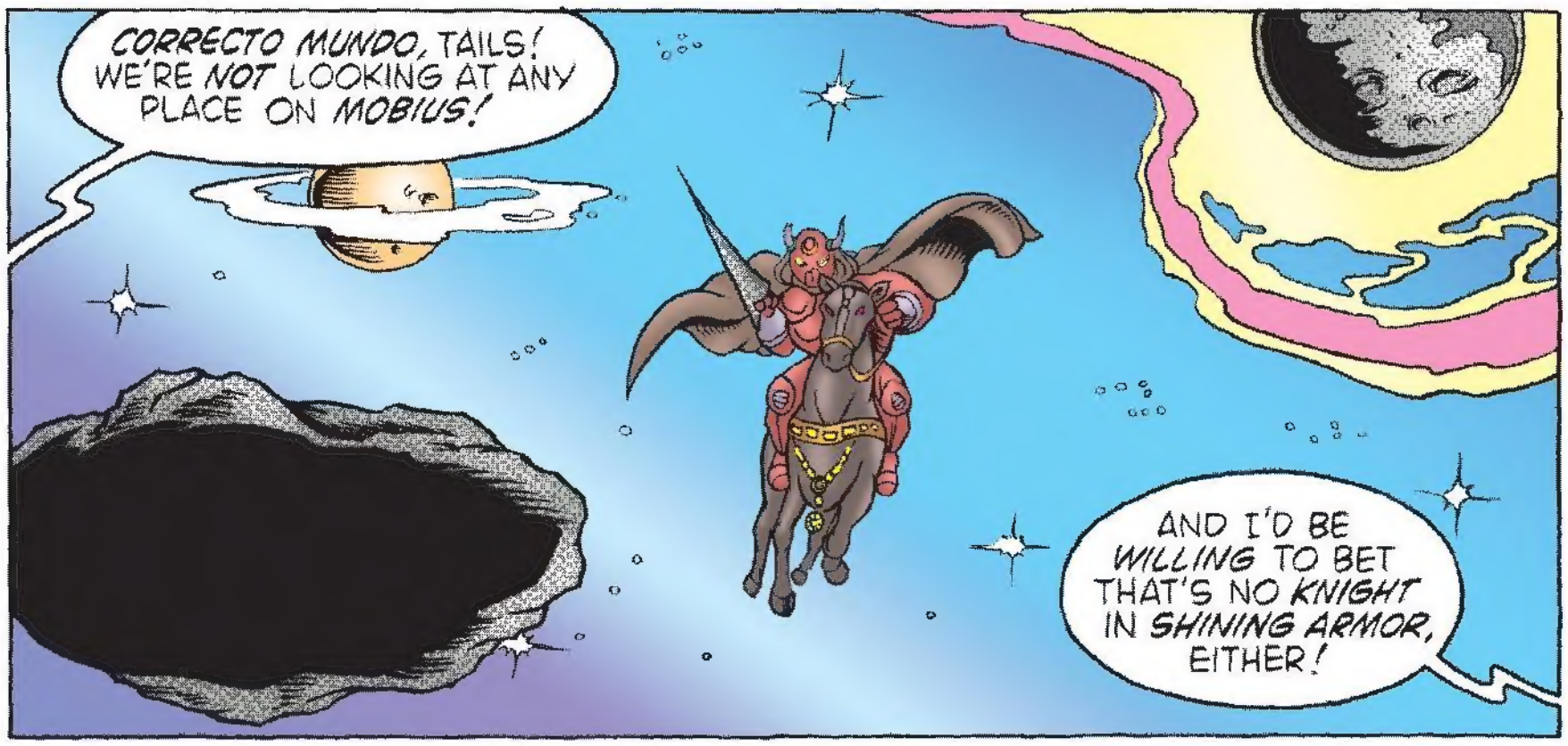
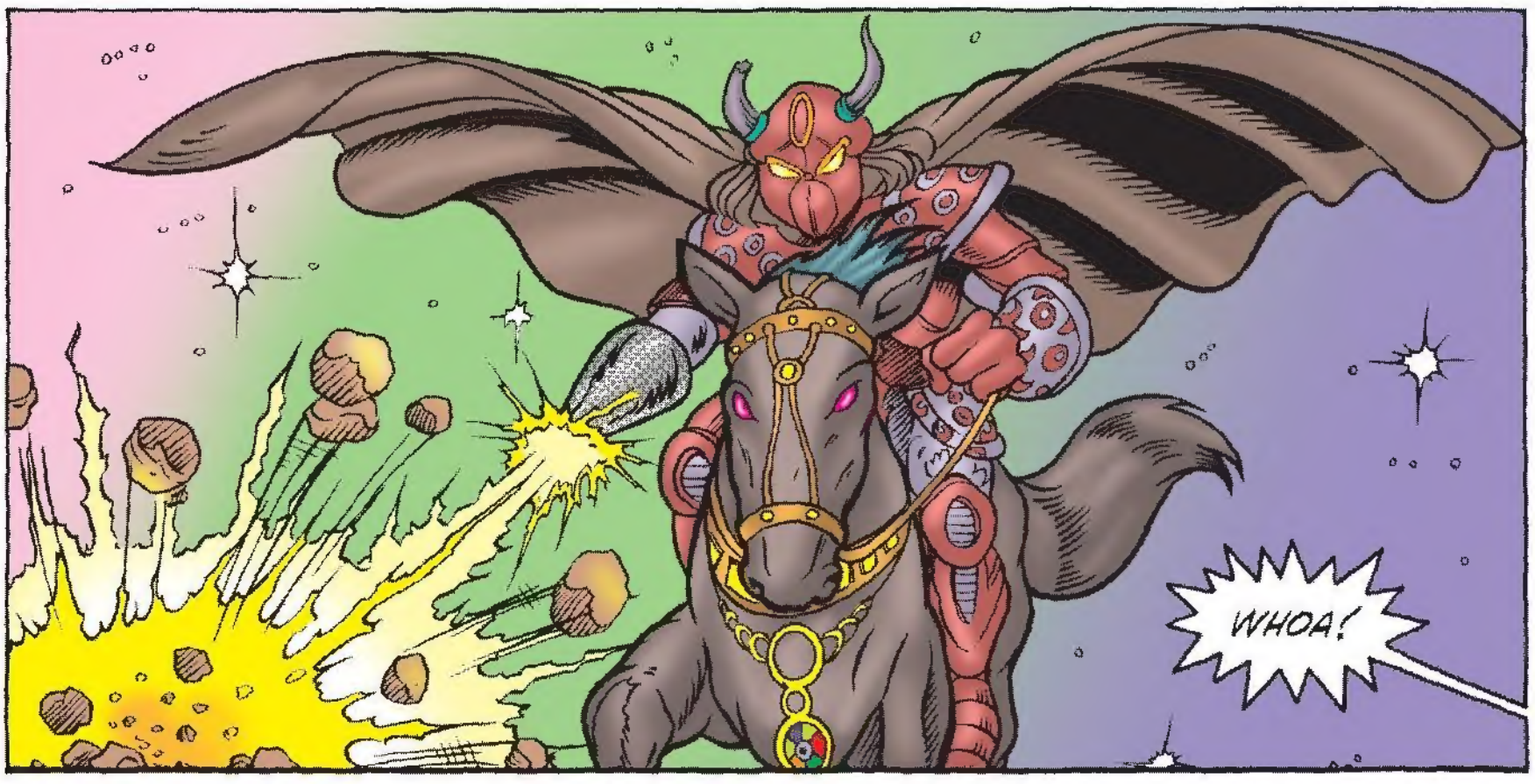
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

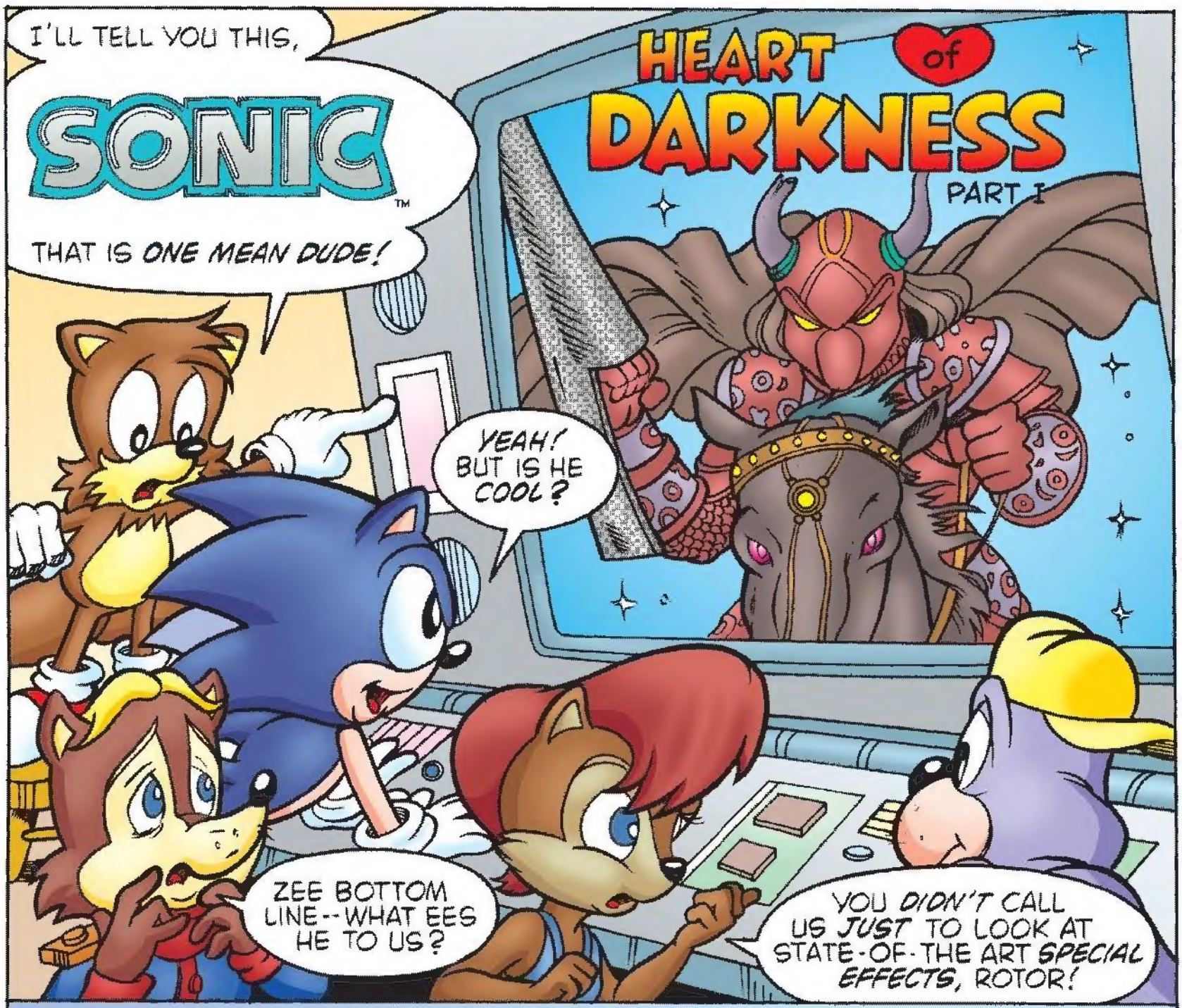
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

KNUCKLES SOLO STORY INSIDE!

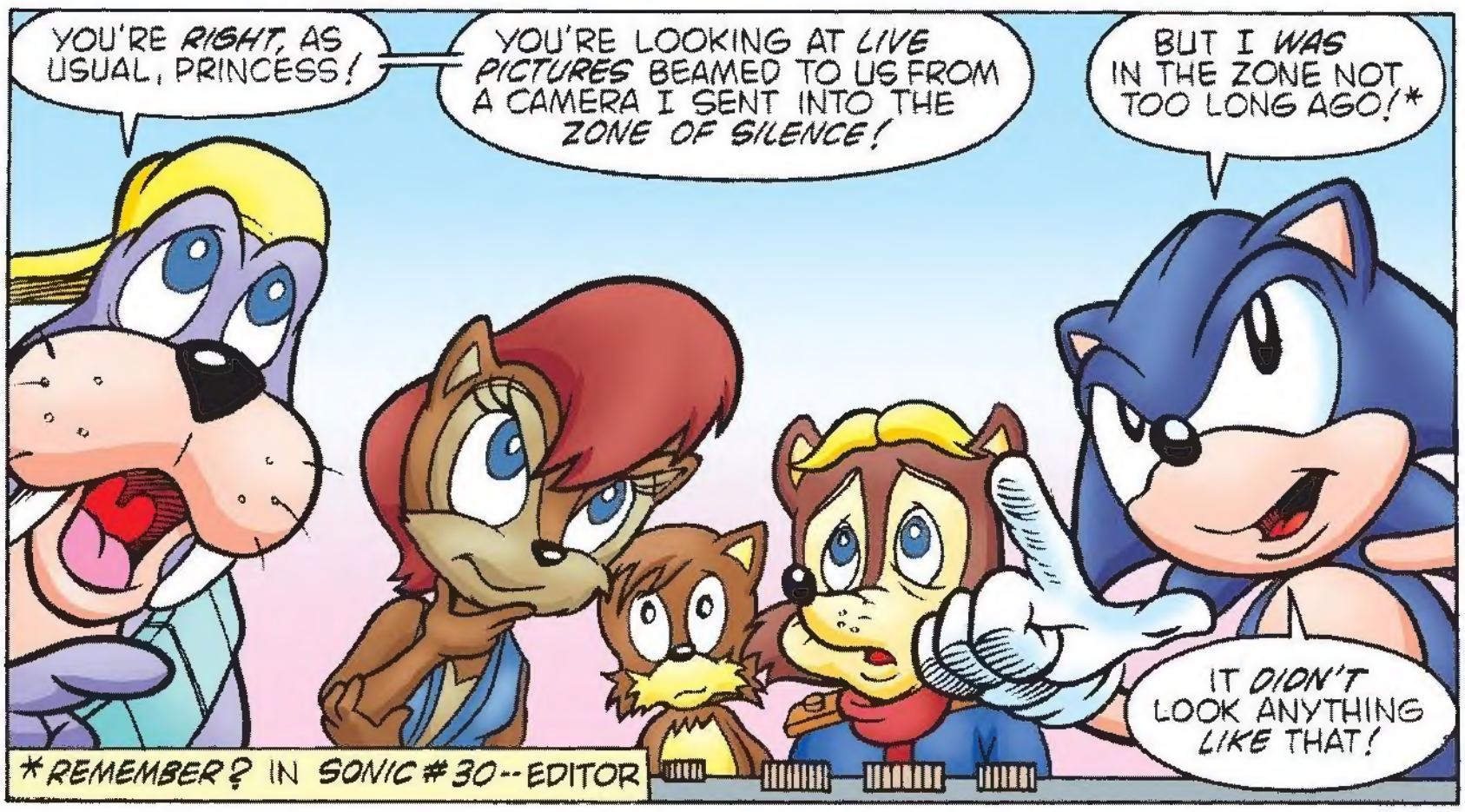

WHAT ON MOBIUS IS THAT?!
WELL, IT ISN'T A BIRD, SONIC!
OR ZEE PLANE, BY ZEE LOOK OF THINGS!
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S AT ANY PLACE ON MOBIUS I'VE EVER SEEN!

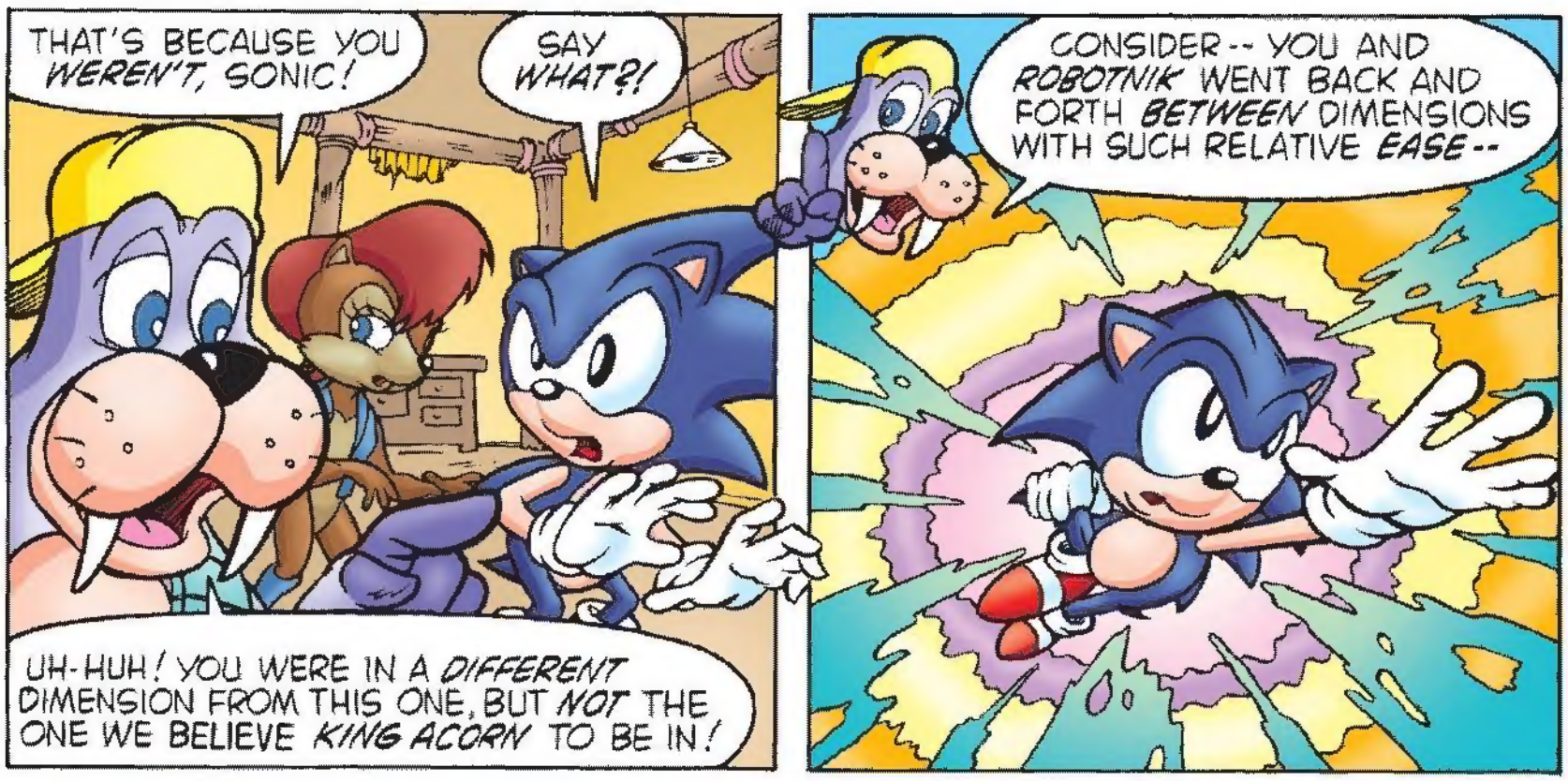

CORRECTO MUNDO, TAILS! WE'RE NOT LOOKING AT ANY PLACE ON MOBIUS!
AND I'D BE WILLING TO BET THAT'S NO KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR, EITHER!

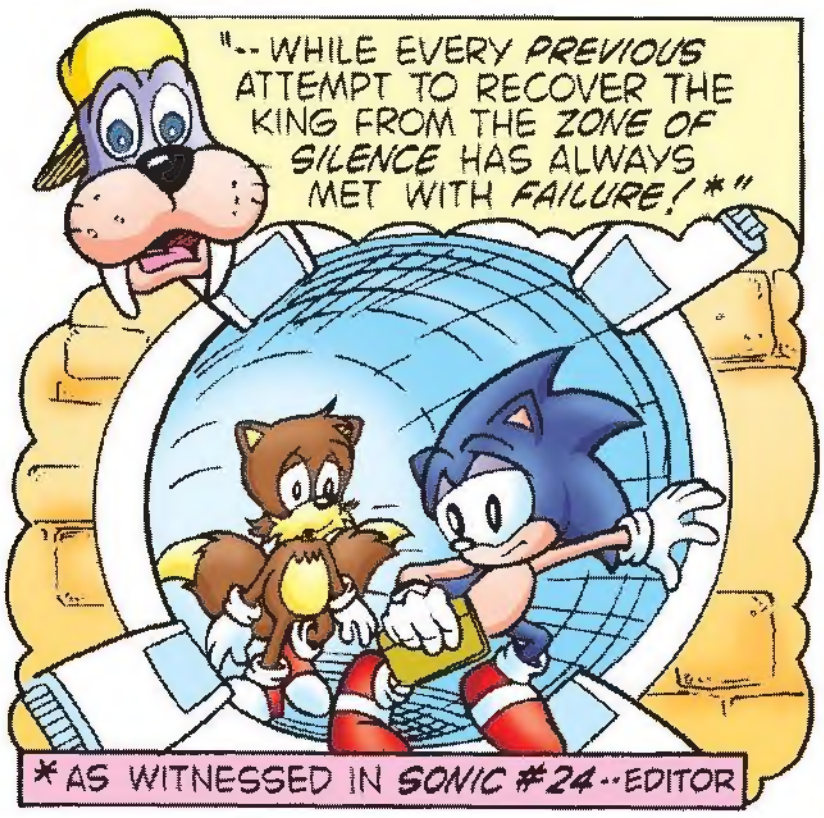

WHOA!

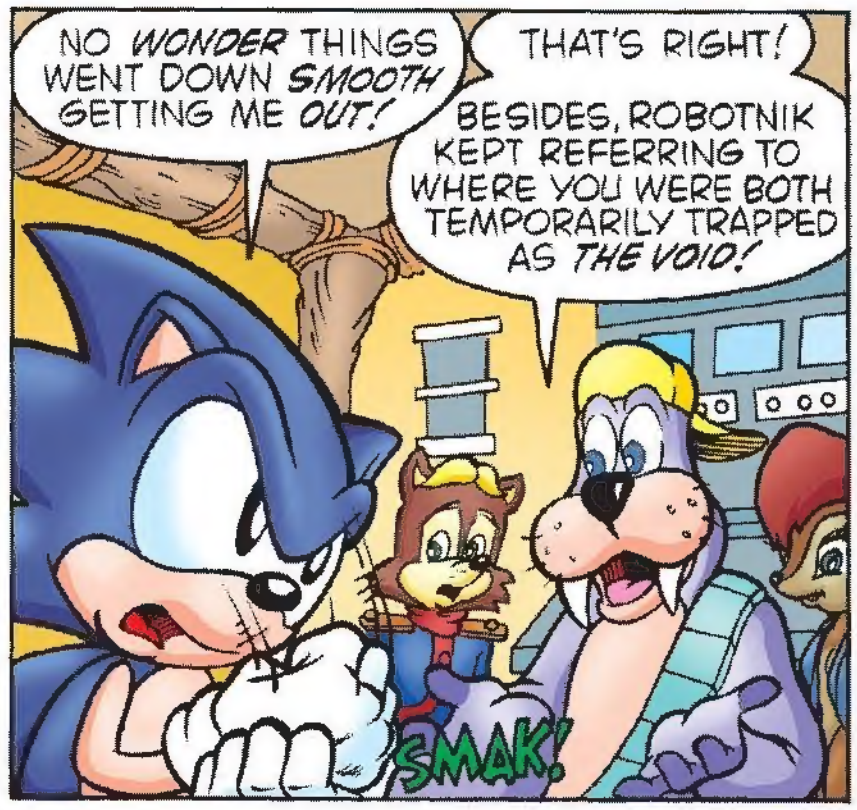


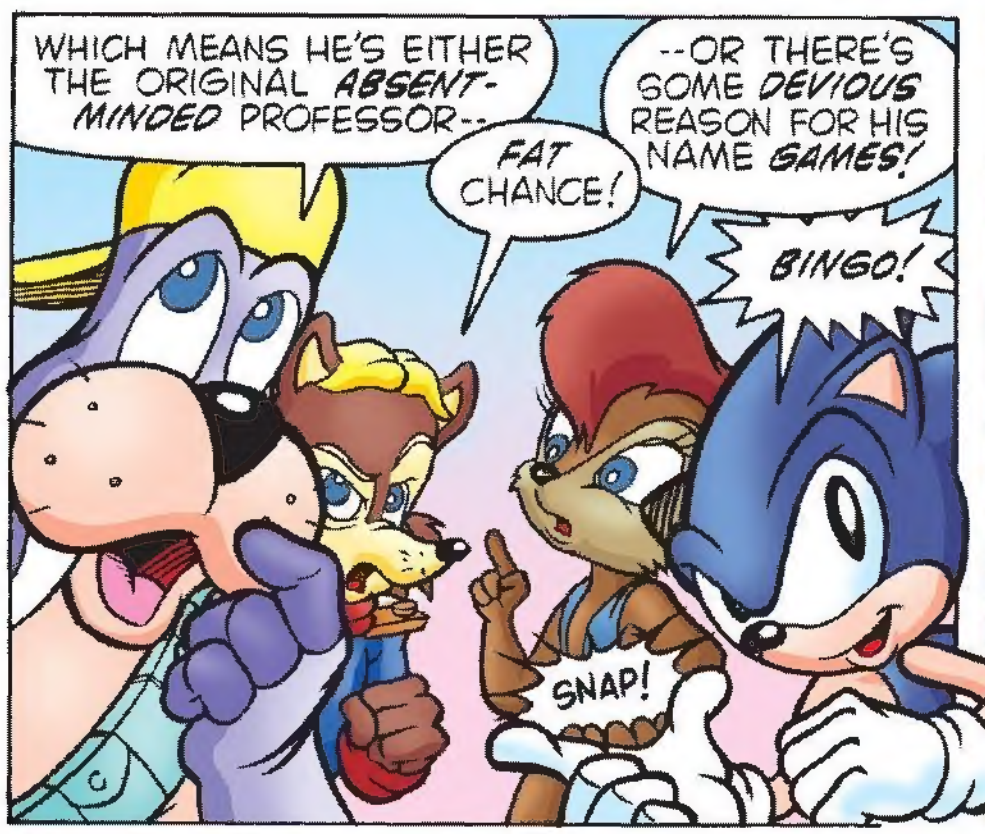
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS | PENCILS: ART MAWHINNEY | INKS: HARVO | LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN | COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN | EDITORS: FREDDY MENDEZ & SCOTT FULOP | MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER



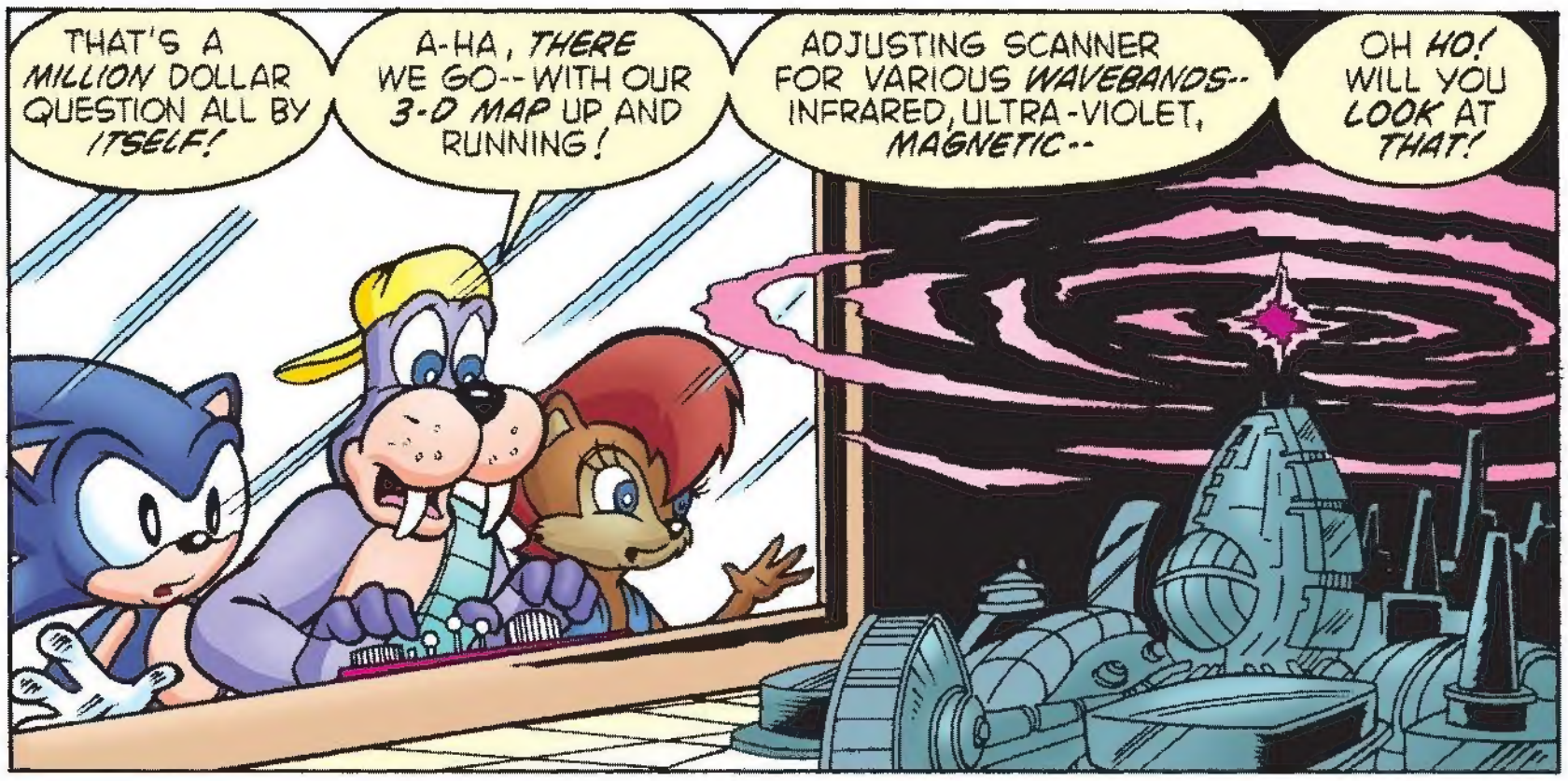

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T, SONIC!
SAY WHAT?!
UH-HUH! YOU WERE IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION FROM THIS ONE, BUT NOT THE ONE WE BELIEVE KING ACORN TO BE IN!
CONSIDER -- YOU AND ROBOTNIK WENT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DIMENSIONS WITH SUCH RELATIVE EASE --

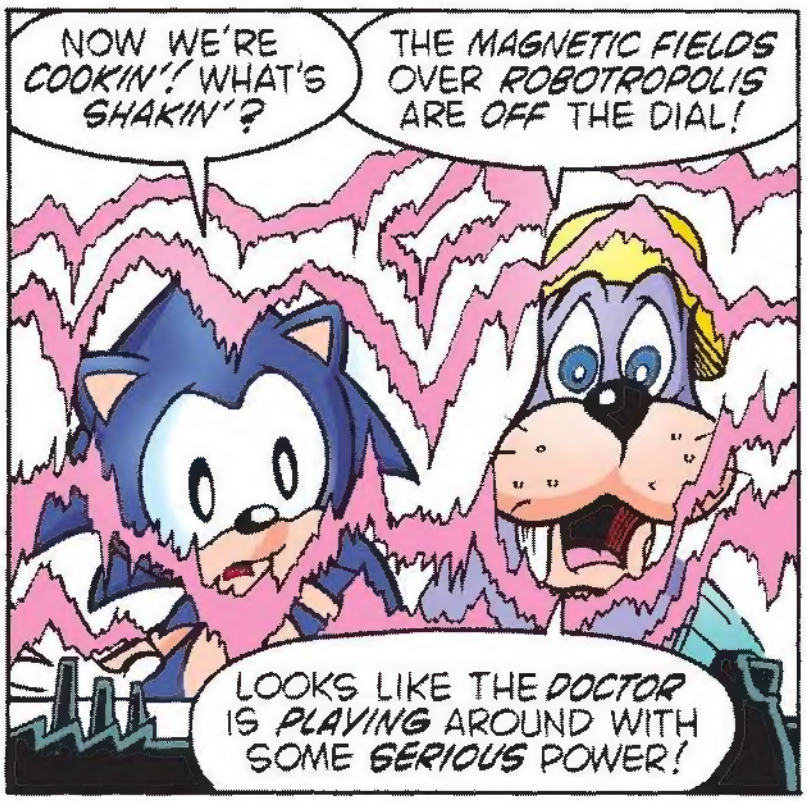

"-- WHILE EVERY PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THE KING FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE HAS ALWAYS MET WITH FAILURE!*"
*AS WITNESSED IN SONIC #24 -- EDITOR

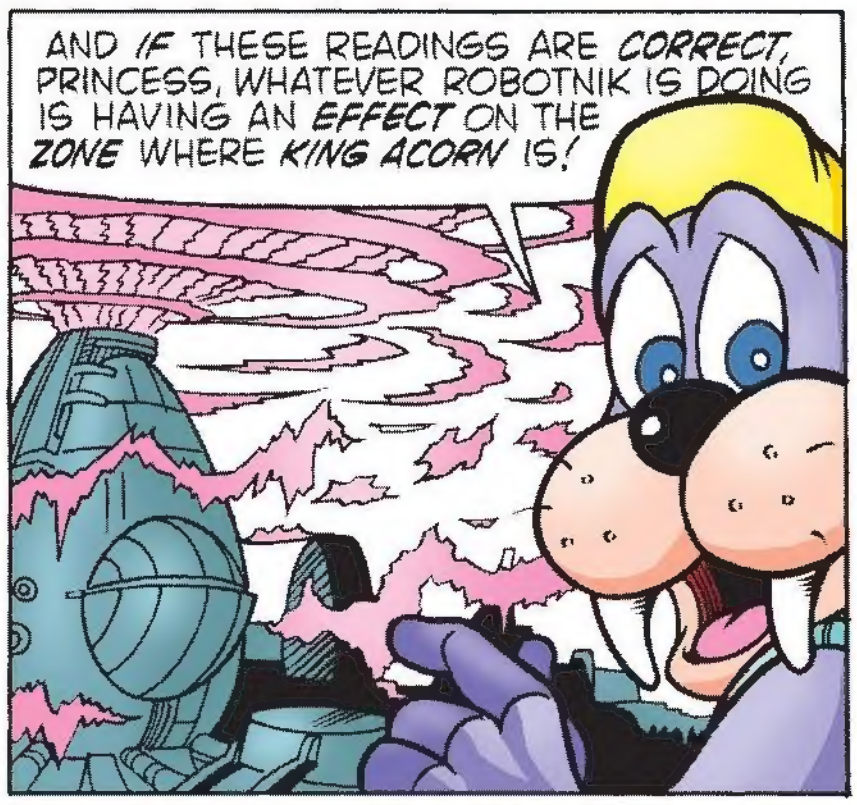

NO WONDER THINGS WENT DOWN SMOOTH GETTING ME OUT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
BESIDES, ROBOTNIK KEPT REFERRING TO WHERE YOU WERE BOTH TEMPORARILY TRAPPED AS THE VOID!
SMAK!


WHICH MEANS HE'S EITHER THE ORIGINAL ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR--
FAT CHANCE!
--OR THERE'S SOME DEVIOUS REASON FOR HIS NAME GAMES!
BINGO!
SNAP!

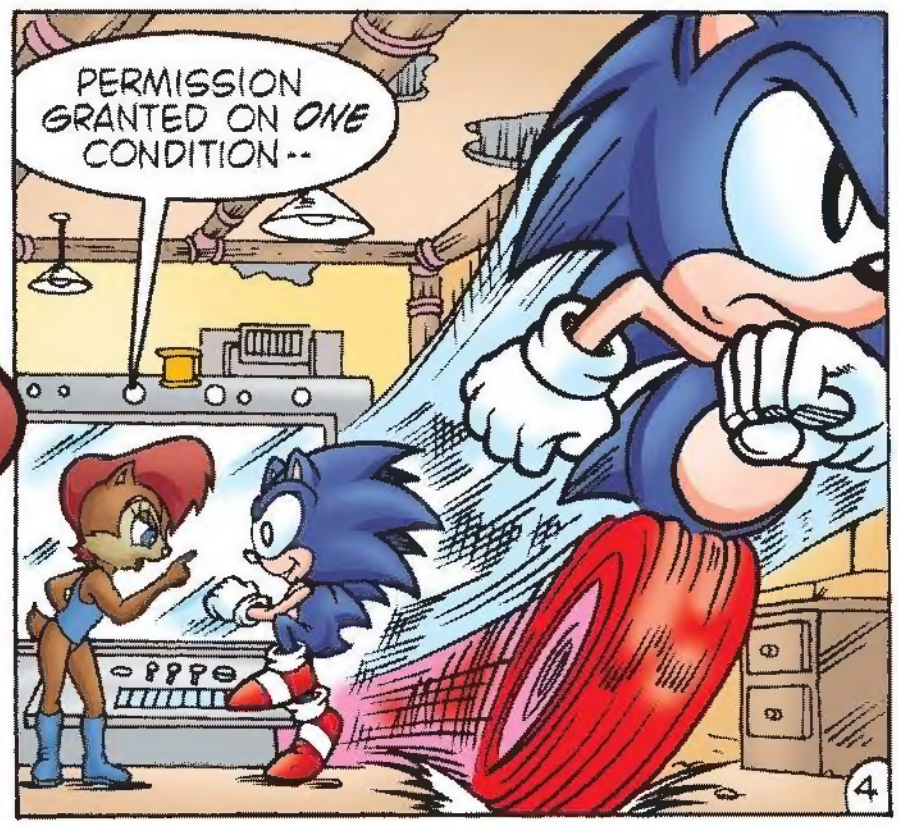
SO LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN TUNE INTO ON THE HOLOGRAPHIC SENSOR GRID!
EVEN SO, HOW DOES THIS TIE IN WITH THE FIGURE WE JUST SAW ON THE VIEW SCREEN?


THAT'S A MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION ALL BY ITSELF!
A-HA, THERE WE GO--WITH OUR 3-D MAP UP AND RUNNING!
ADJUSTING SCANNER FOR VARIOUS WAVEBANDS--INFRARED, ULTRA-VIOLET, MAGNETIC--
OH HO! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!

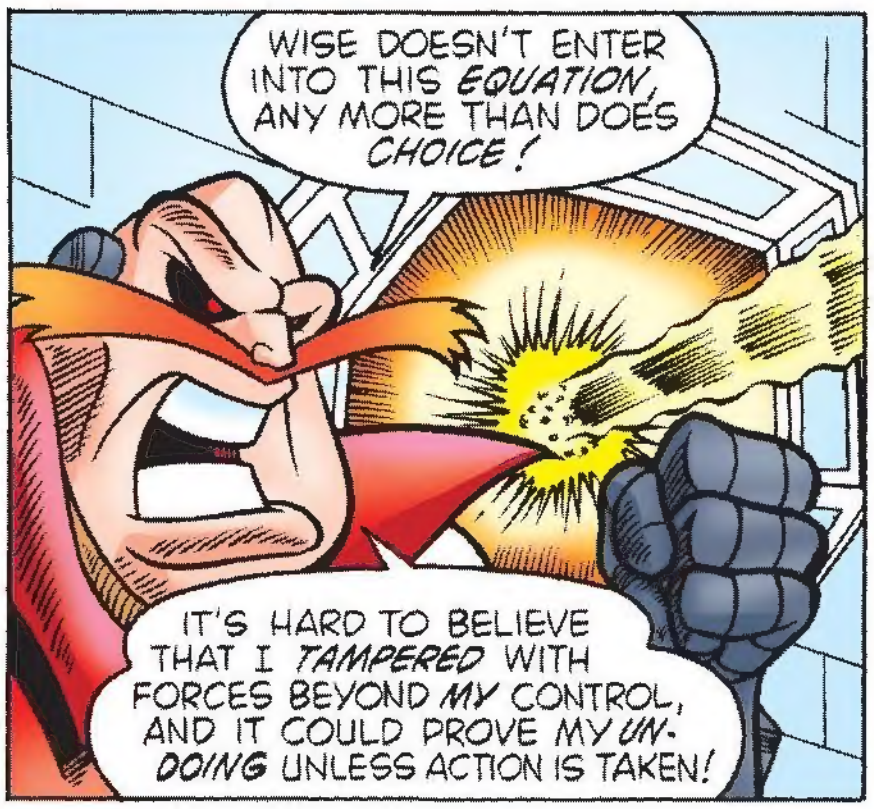

NOW WE'RE COOKIN'! WHAT'S SHAKIN'?
THE MAGNETIC FIELDS OVER ROBOTROPOLIS ARE OFF THE DIAL!
LOOKS LIKE THE DOCTOR IS PLAYING AROUND WITH SOME SERIOUS POWER!


AND IF THESE READINGS ARE CORRECT, PRINCESS, WHATEVER ROBOTNIK IS DOING IS HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE ZONE WHERE KING ACORN IS!

IT'S YOUR CALL, SALLY--
--BUT I'M WILLING TO CUT LOOSE THE JUICE--
--AND NAIL ROBOBUTT BEFORE HE KNOWS WHAT HIT HIM!

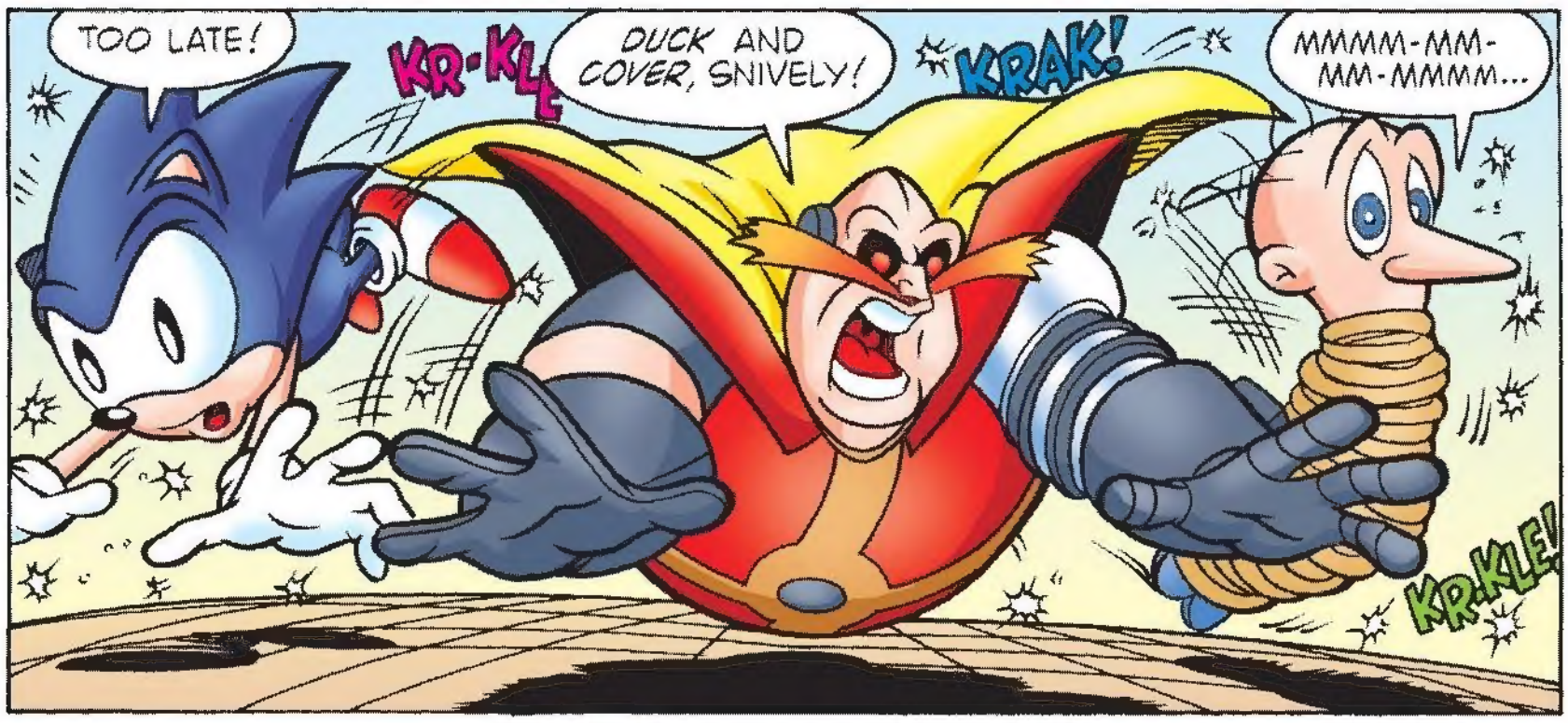

PERMISSION GRANTED ON ONE CONDITION--

"--DON'T *RUSH* INTO ANYTHING!"
PUMP *UP* THE VOLUME, SNIVELY--
--IT'S *TIME* WE ROCK'N'ROLLED!
ARE YOU *SURE* THIS IS *WISE*, DOCTOR?



ALL I KNOW IS, IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE, IT HAS TO BE WAY PAST COOL!
ZZZTT!!
WHY DON'T YOU BE A GOOD HEDGEHOG AND EXPLODE!

'CAUSE I'M A FREEDOM FIGHTER, THAT'S WHY!
NOW TO SHUT THIS PUPPY DOWN!
SMASH!
WAIT!!


TOO LATE!
KR-KLE
DUCK AND COVER, SNIVELY!
KRAK!
MMMM-MM-MM-MMMM...
KR-KLE!

YOU BLITHERING IDIOT! I HOPE YOU'RE PROUD OF YOURSELF!
KA BOOM!
BIG TIME, RO-BUTT-NIK!

I HOPE YOU CAN SAY THE SAME WHEN YOU WITNESS ALL OF MOBIUS ERADICATED!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU FIGURE IT OUT! IN THE MEANTIME--
I'VE A WORLD TO SAVE!
END OF PART I

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

HEART of DARKNESS

PART II

NOT EVEN YOU, CAN SAVE THE DAY THIS TIME!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, ROBOBUTT!

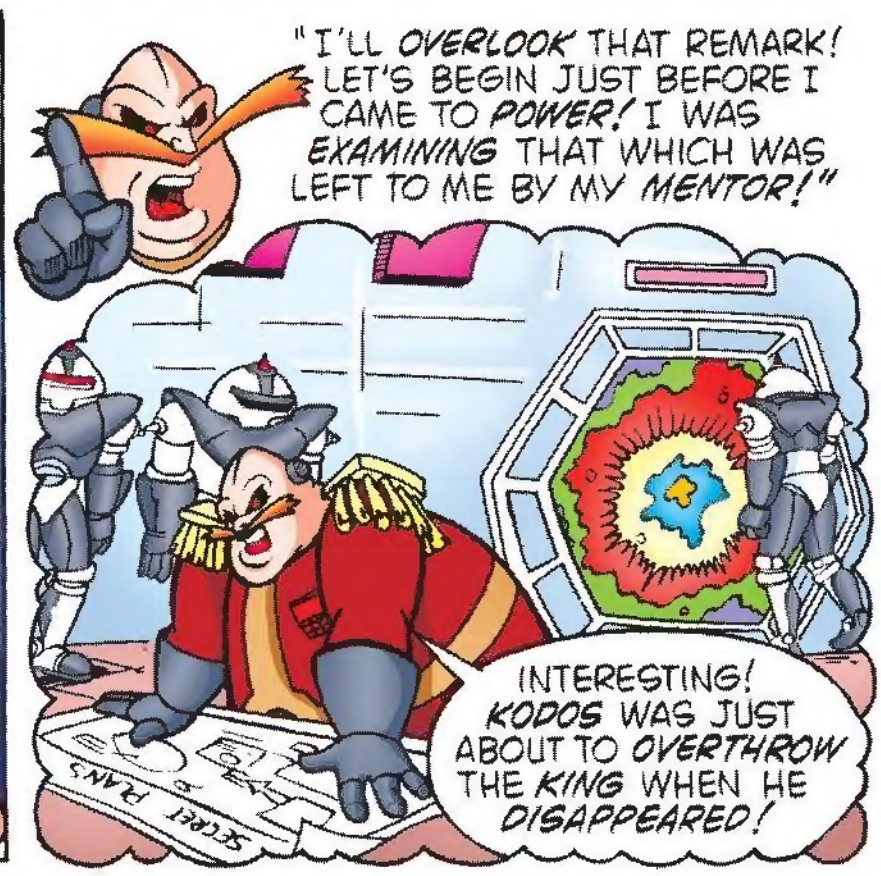
IT'S WHAT I KNOW, HEDGEHOG!

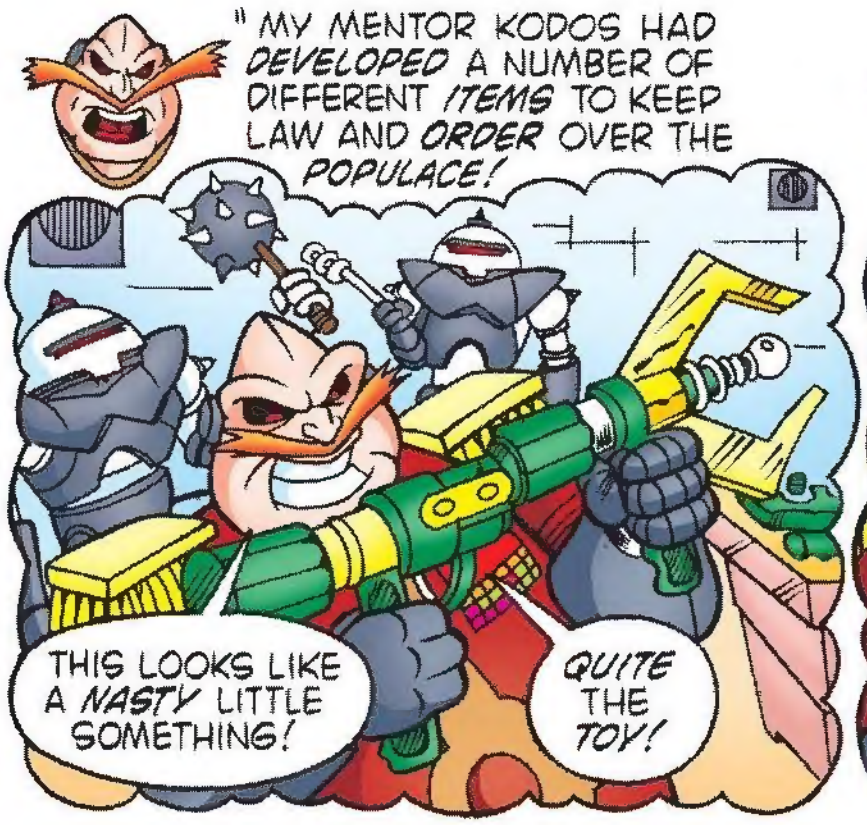
STILL--

MMMMMM-- MMMMMM-- MMMMMM--

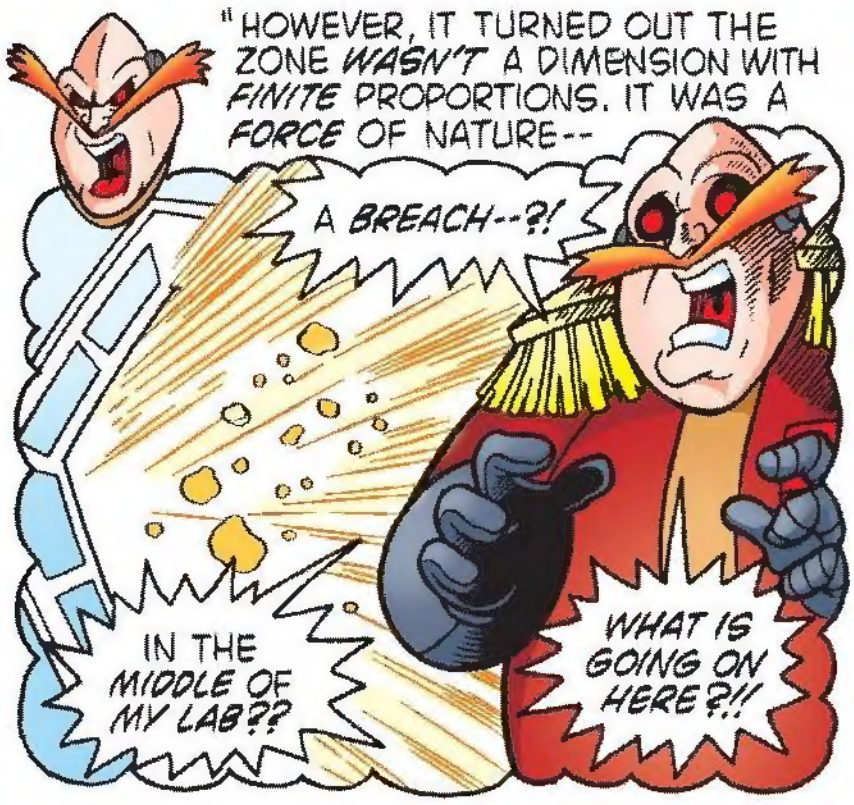
QUIT YOUR MUMBLING, SNIVELY!

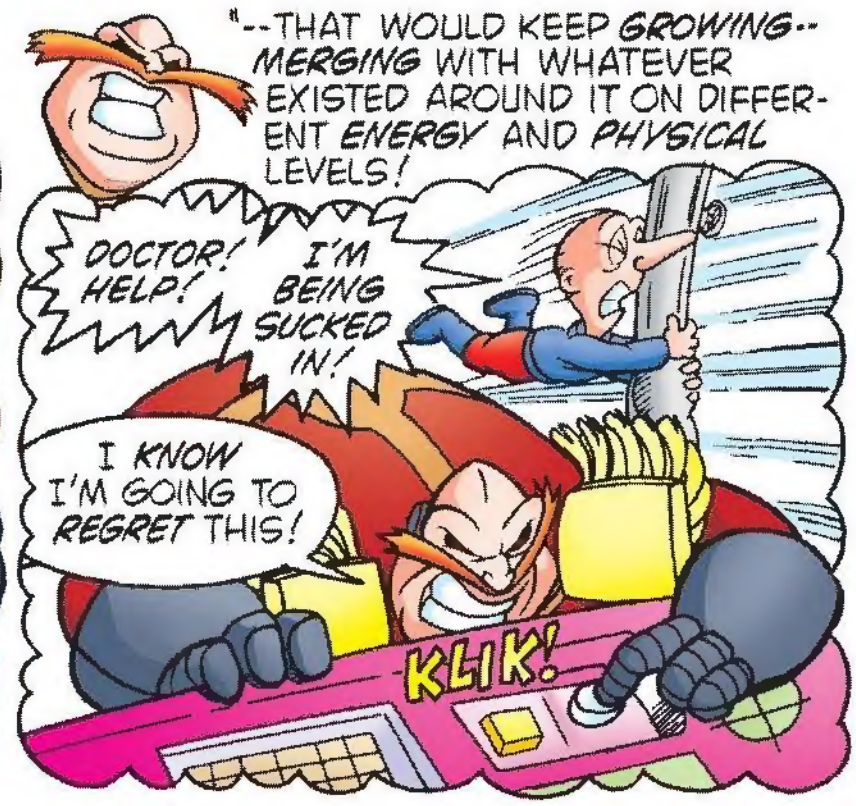
WHERE WAS I--?

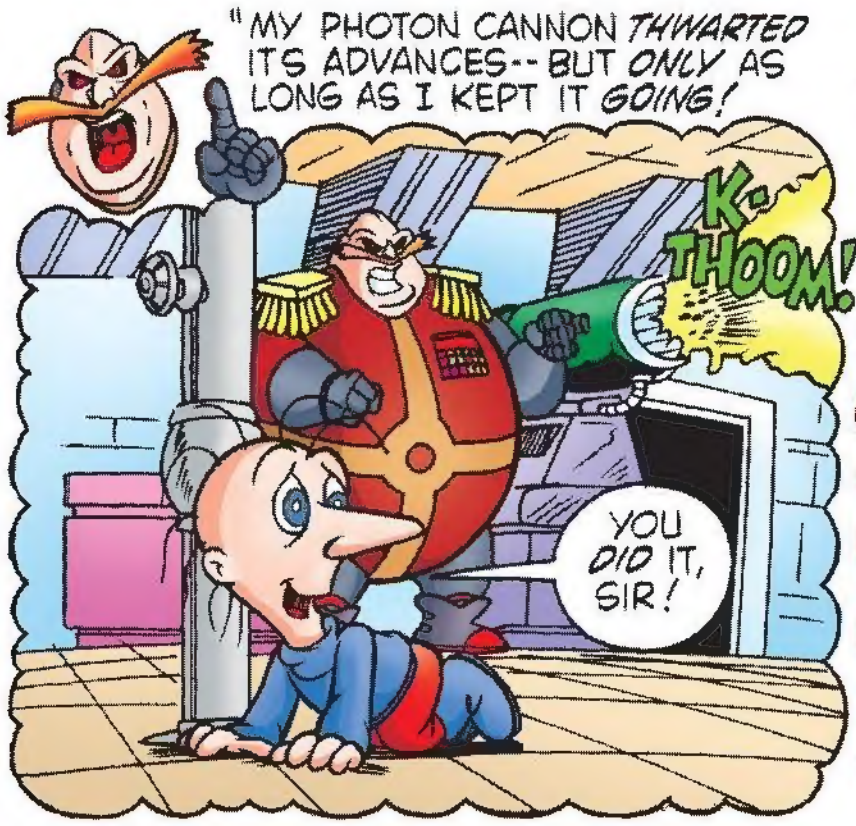



"MY MENTOR KODOS HAD DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ITEMS TO KEEP LAW AND ORDER OVER THE POPULACE!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A NASTY LITTLE SOMETHING!
QUITE THE TOY!

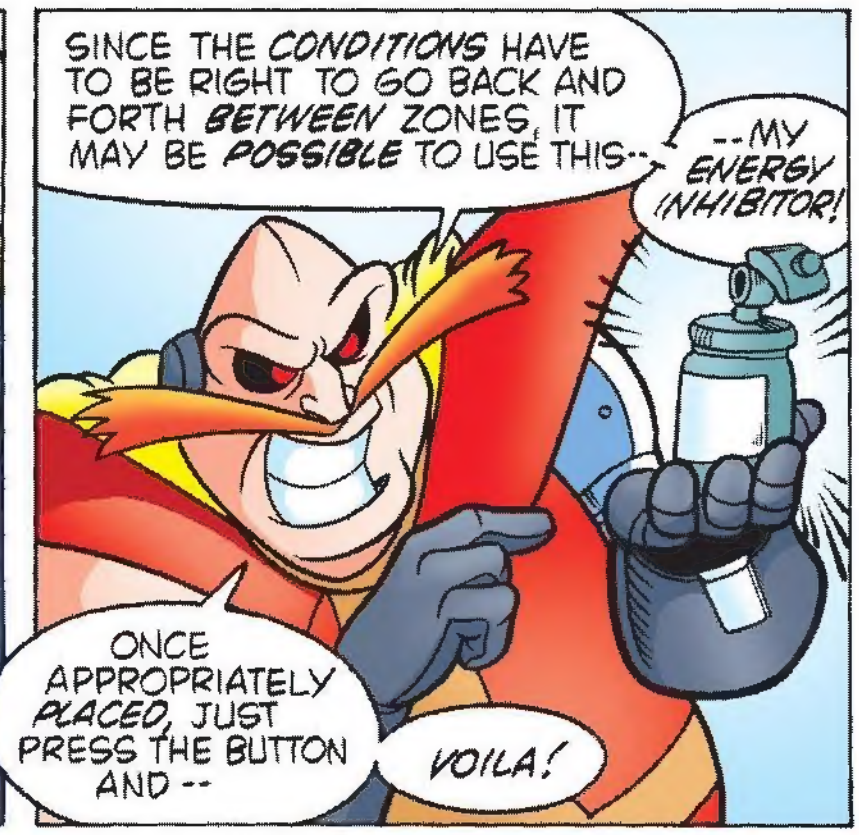
"THE BEST ONE WAS A CONVENIENT LITTLE THING CALLED THE ZONE OF SILENCE!-ANOTHER DIMENSION OF REALITY SUITABLE FOR STRANDING ONE'S ENEMIES!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, ROBOTNIK!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE STOPPING ME, KING ACORN!

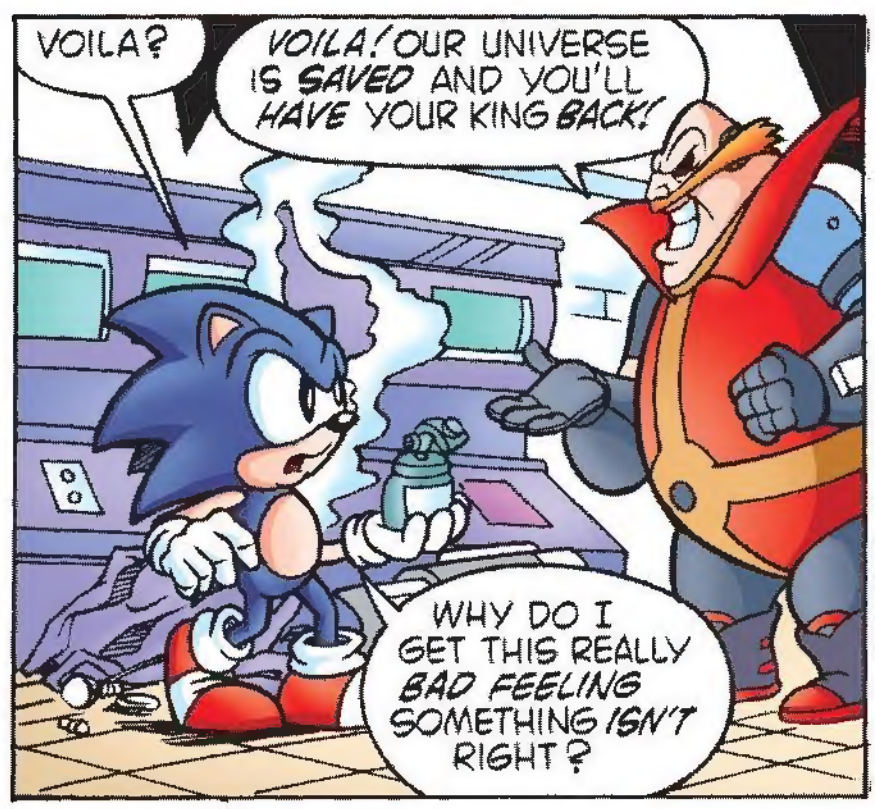

"HOWEVER, IT TURNED OUT THE ZONE WASN'T A DIMENSION WITH FINITE PROPORTIONS. IT WAS A FORCE OF NATURE--
A BREACH--?!
IN THE MIDDLE OF MY LAB??
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!!


"--THAT WOULD KEEP GROWING--MERGING WITH WHATEVER EXISTED AROUND IT ON DIFFERENT ENERGY AND PHYSICAL LEVELS!
DOCTOR! HELP!
I'M BEING SUCKED IN!
I KNOW I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS!
KLIK!

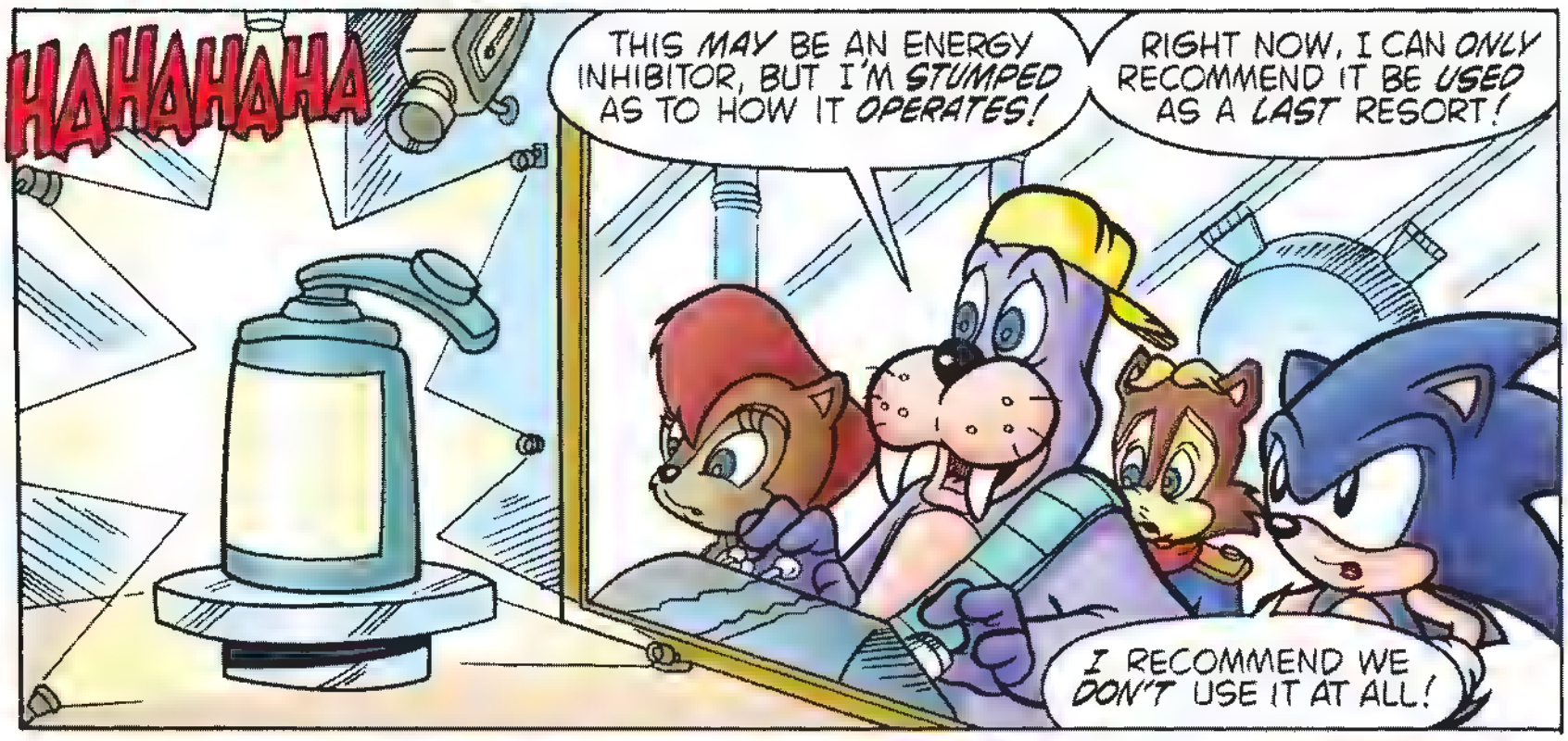

"MY PHOTON CANNON THWARTED ITS ADVANCES--BUT ONLY AS LONG AS I KEPT IT GOING!
K-THOOM!
YOU DID IT, SIR!

"FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION ACKNOWLEDGED SOMETHING HAD TO GIVE!"
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME, SNIVELY!
WE MUST DESTROY THE ZONE BEFORE IT CONSUMES AND DESTROYS MOBIUS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THE KING?



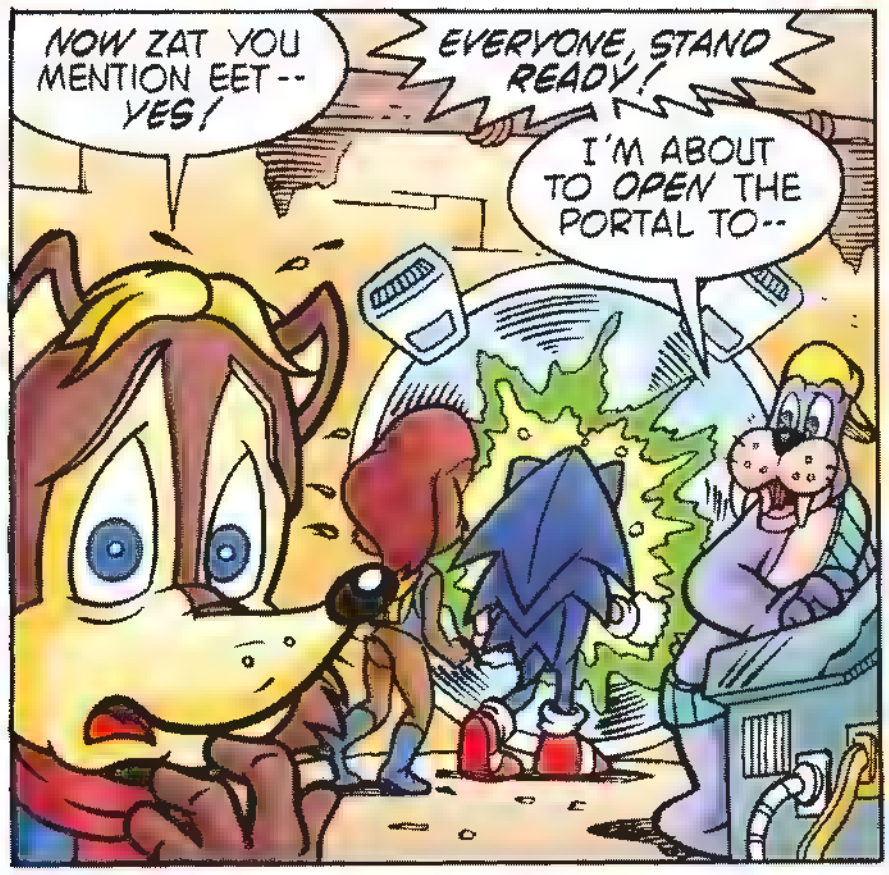


* WE'LL FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KODOS IN AN UPCOMING ADVENTURE -- EDITOR


HAHAHAHA
THIS MAY BE AN ENERGY INHIBITOR, BUT I'M STUMPED AS TO HOW IT OPERATES!
RIGHT NOW, I CAN ONLY RECOMMEND IT BE USED AS A LAST RESORT!
I RECOMMEND WE DON'T USE IT AT ALL!

WE MAY NOT HAVE A CHOICE, SONIC!
ROBOTNIK WASN'T GOING TO RISK ENTERING THE ZONE, BUT WE HAVE TO--
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO RESCUE DA--ER, THE KING!

I STILL THINK ZIS IS A FUELISH, FUELISH THING TO DO! WE COULD BE BADLY HURT!
PERHAPS GRAVELY!
WELL, 'TWAN, HAVE YOU REALLY ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?


NOW ZAT YOU MENTION EET-- YES!
EVERYONE, STAND READY!
I'M ABOUT TO OPEN THE PORTAL TO--

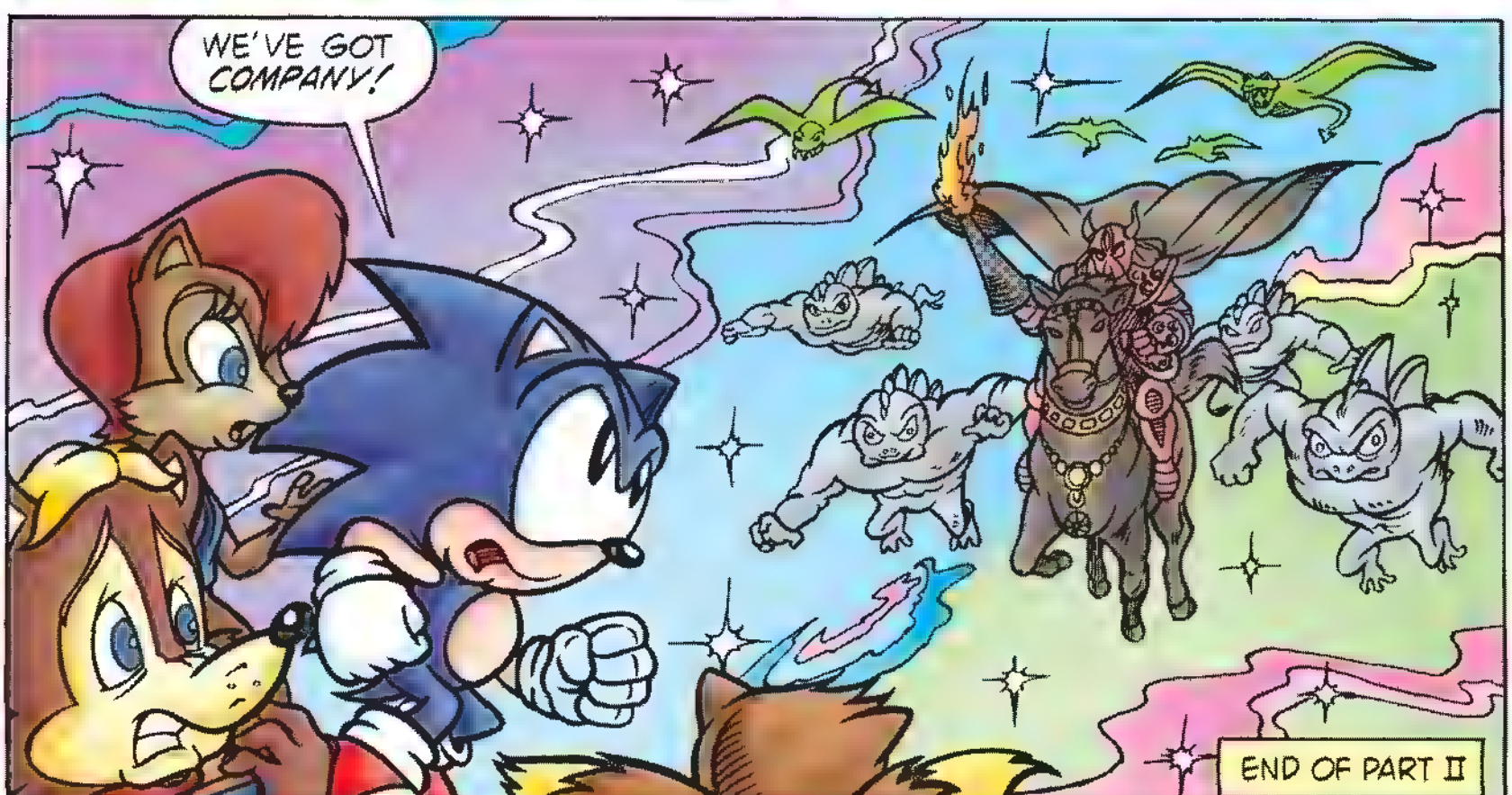
--THE ZONE OF SILENCE!
HANG ON TIGHT, KIDS--

WHOA!

THAT FIRST STEP IS A DOOZY!
THIS FEELS MONDO WEIRD!

WHEN YOU SWITCH FROM WALKING TO FLOATING, THE DISORIENTATION CAN BE A BIT JARRING!
MAYBE NICOLE CAN EXPLAIN IT BETTER--

WE'LL HAVE TO CAN THE SCIENCE LESSON FOR NOW, SAL!


WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
END OF PART II

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ in HEART of DARKNESS

PART III

SURRENDER, OR *ELSE* FACE THE *CONSEQUENCES!*

THAT'S *NOT* EXACTLY A *FRIENDLY* WAY TO START THINGS OFF, BUD!

I'M *NOT* YOUR "BUD," "PAL," "BRO" OR ANY *OTHER* TERM YOU MAY USE SUGGESTING *FAMILIARITY!*

HE EES RIGHT! I'D *RATHER* SEE OPEN HONEST *HOSTILITY,* MON AMI!

AT LEAST YOU *KNOW* HE'LL HIT YOU WHERE IT *HURTS* ZE MOST!

MY *PATIENCE* IS WEARING *THIN,* FOOL!

I'D *LIKE* YOUR REPLY *NOW!*

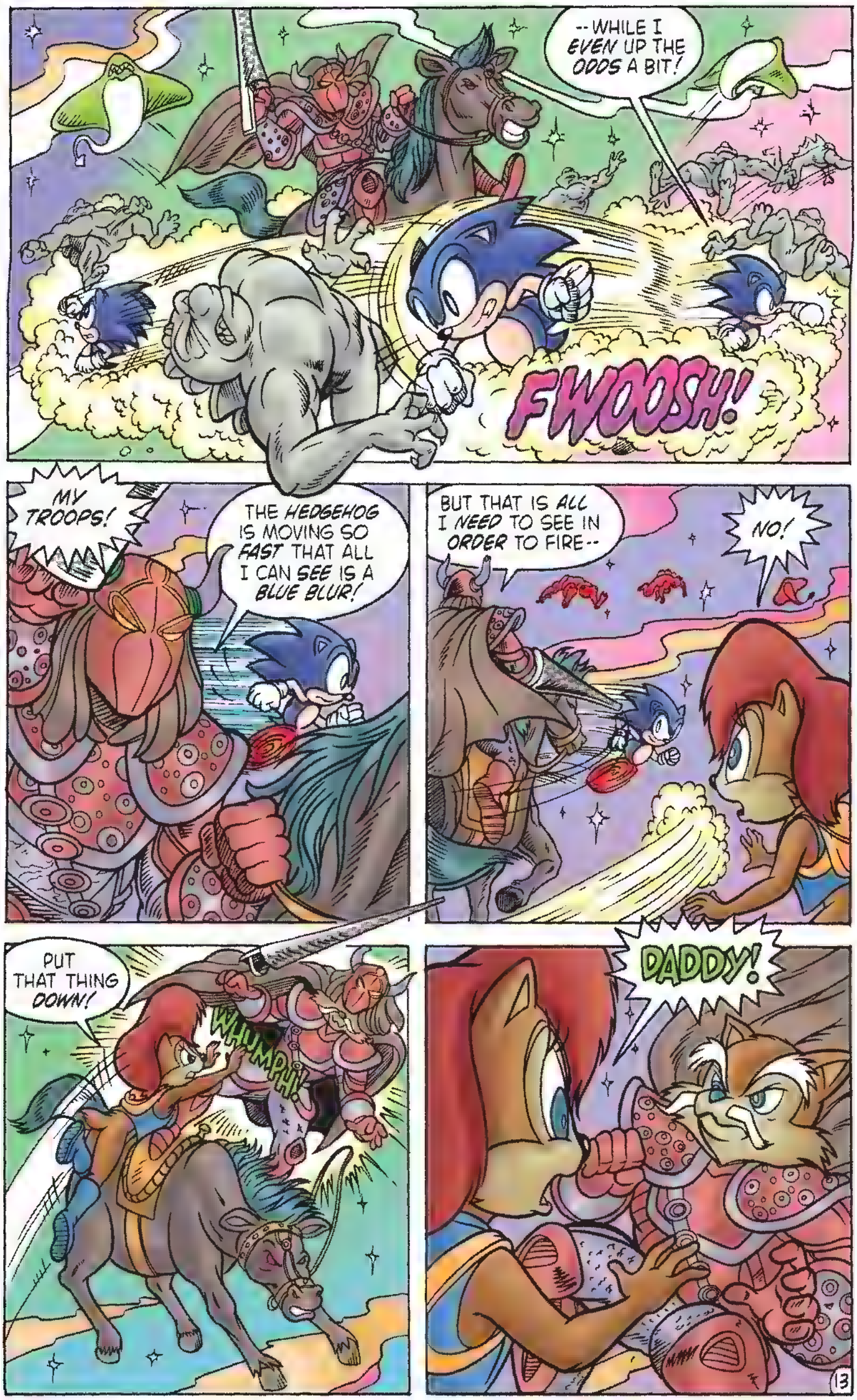
CAN WE *TALK--?*

SNORT!

OW!

DIDN'T YOUR MOM *EVER* TEACH YOU IT'S *NOT* POLITE TO *POINT?*

JUST GIVE ME A SEC--


--WHILE I EVEN UP THE ODDS A BIT!
FWOOSH!
MY TROOPS!
THE HEDGEHOG IS MOVING SO FAST THAT ALL I CAN SEE IS A BLUE BLUR!
BUT THAT IS ALL I NEED TO SEE IN ORDER TO FIRE--
NO!
PUT THAT THING DOWN!
WHUMPH!
DADDY!

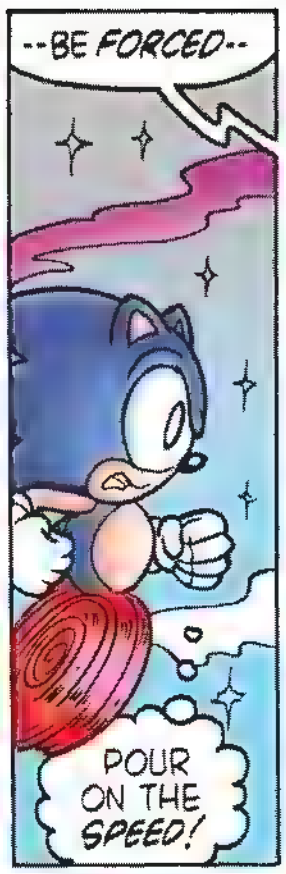
TWAK!
WITLESS FEMALE!!

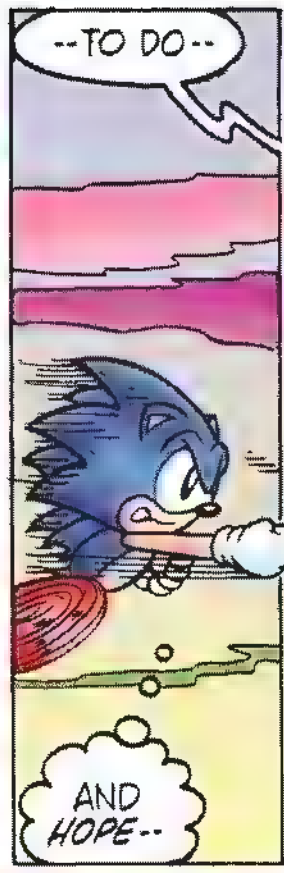
NEVER ATTACK IF YOU HAVEN'T THE STOMACH TO FINISH OFF YOUR OPPONENT!

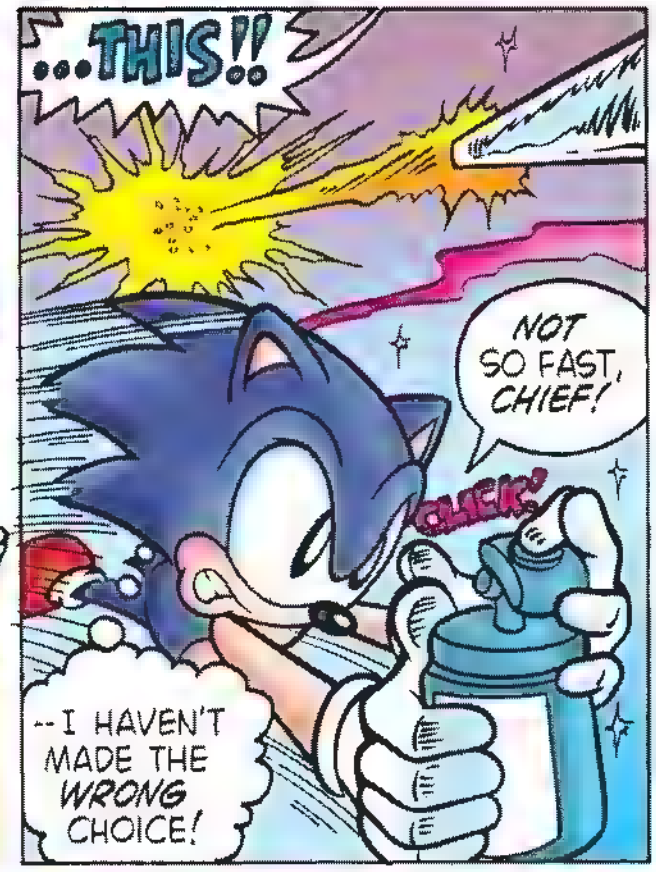
SALLY!
SONIC! DON'T!!
THIS EES NO GOOD, MON AMI!
YOU WOULD ATTACK YOUR KING?!
HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO KNOW WHO HE EES OR WHO WE ARE!

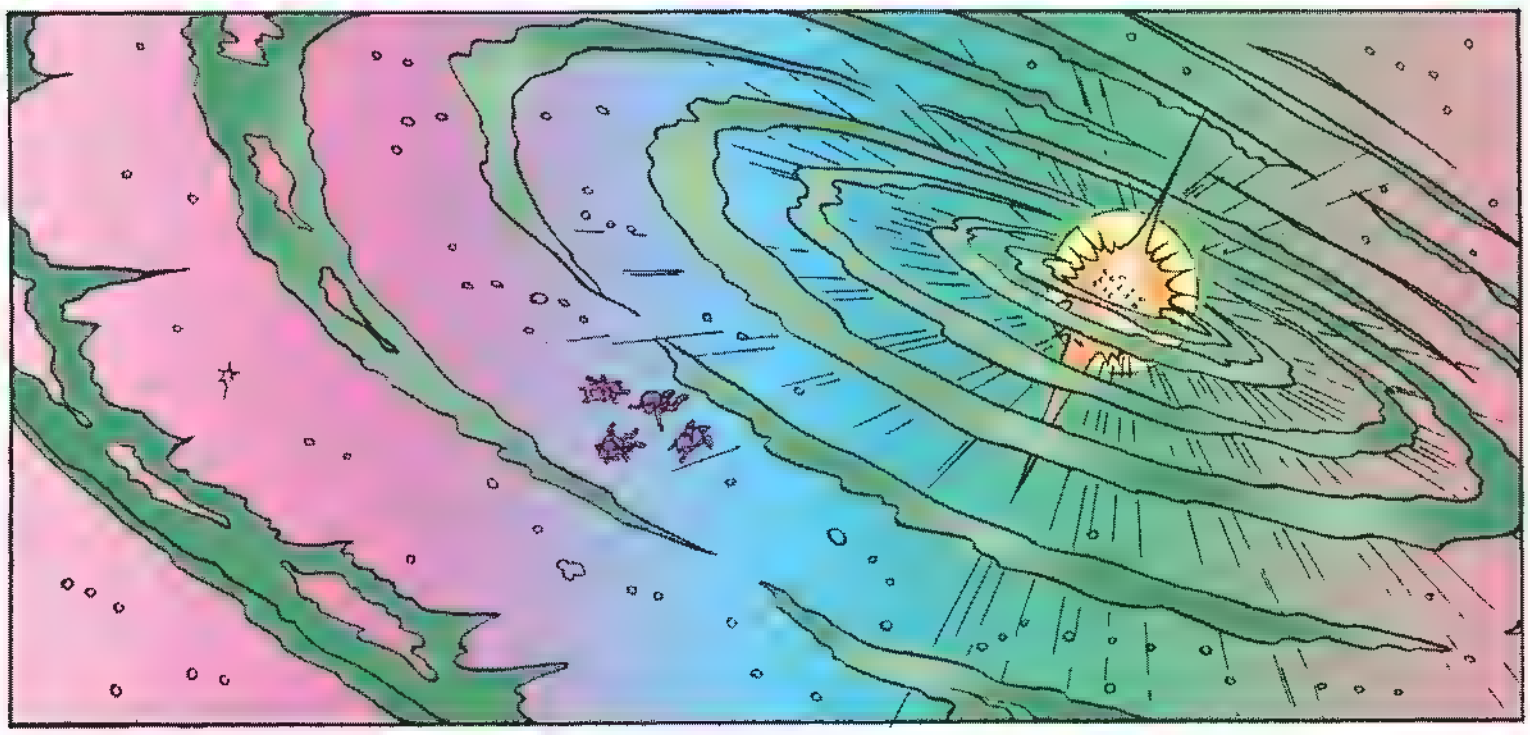
SURRENDER NOW AND I WILL BE LENIENT!
IF NOT--

--I WILL--
ONLY ONE SHOT!

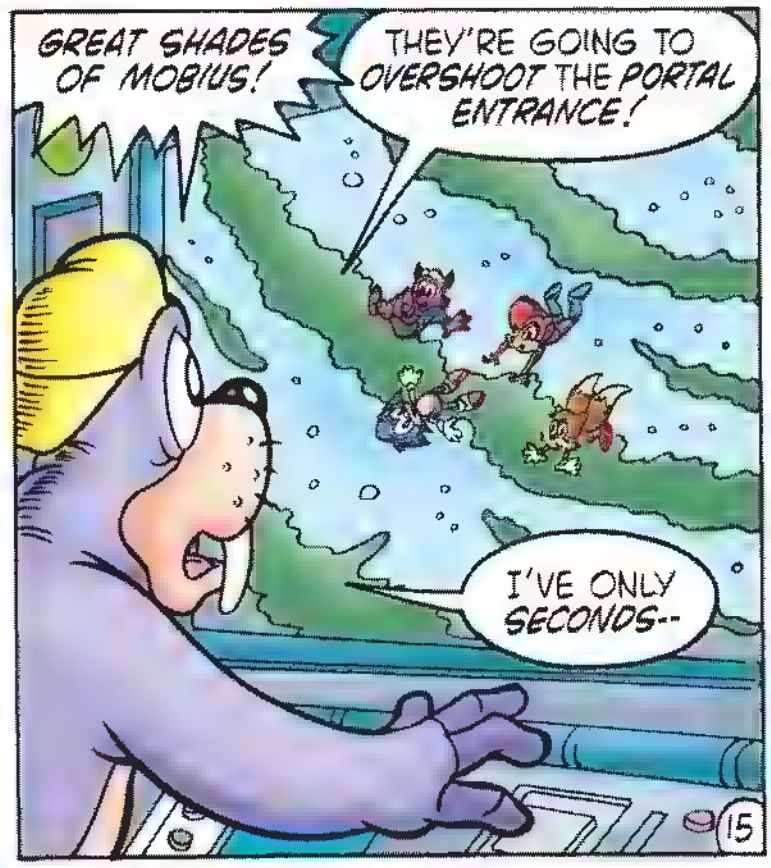

--BE FORCED--
POUR ON THE SPEED!


--TO DO--
AND HOPE--


...THIS!!
NOT SO FAST, CHIEF!
CLICK!
--I HAVEN'T MADE THE WRONG CHOICE!

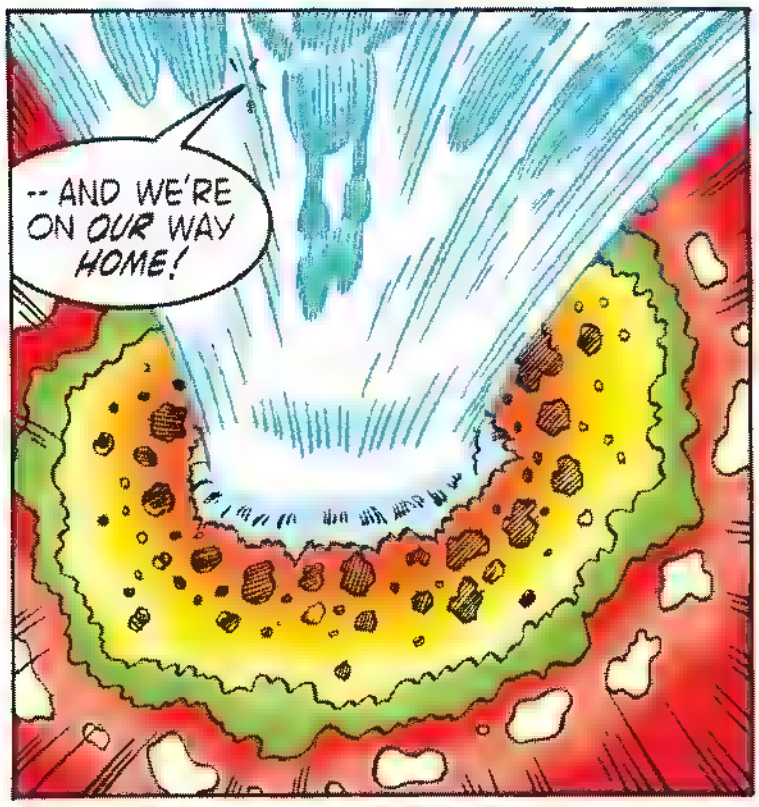


WHAT HAVE I DONE?


GREAT SHADES OF MOBIUS!
THEY'RE GOING TO OVERSHOOT THE PORTAL ENTRANCE!
I'VE ONLY SECONDS--

--TO FIRE THIS LIFELINE!
POOMPH!
SOMETIMES I WONDER--

"--WHAT SONIC WOULD DO WITHOUT ME."
HEY! LOOK!
OUR TICKET TO RIDE!
I JUST GIVE A LITTLE TUG--


-- AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME!

IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
WE'RE OKAY! BUT THE KING ISN'T--

--SO IT'S BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO RESCUE HIM!
AND WE WILL, PRINCESS!

" WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND SET THINGS RIGHT!"
THE ACTION AND SUSPENSE DOESN'T STOP HERE, READERS! TUNE INTO UPCOMING ISSUES FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™

A SENSE OF HISTORY
PART III

EDMUND AND DIMITRI HAD A DREAM -- TO DRAIN THE GEMS WHICH HOLD THE FLOATING ISLAND ALOFT, THAT WE MIGHT AGAIN BECOME ONE WITH THE LAND!

BUT THE DREAM WENT HORRIBLY, TERRIBLY WRONG!

ACTING AGAINST THE WILL OF THE SCIENTIFIC ELITE, DIMITRI INSTEAD ABSORBED THEIR POWER...

...UNTIL THE ENERGIES OF ELEVEN SHATTERED CHAOS EMERALDS HOWLED WITHIN HIM!

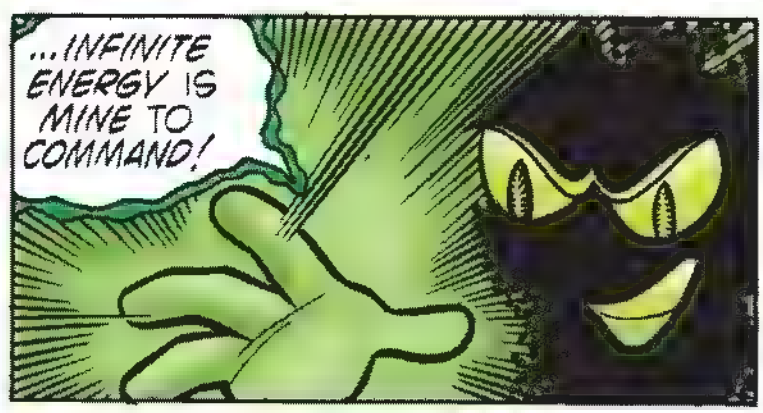
AND AS HE SPOKE, THE GROUND TWISTED AND HEAVED, UNTIL A MASSIVE DARK TOWER ERUPTED FROM THE EARTH!

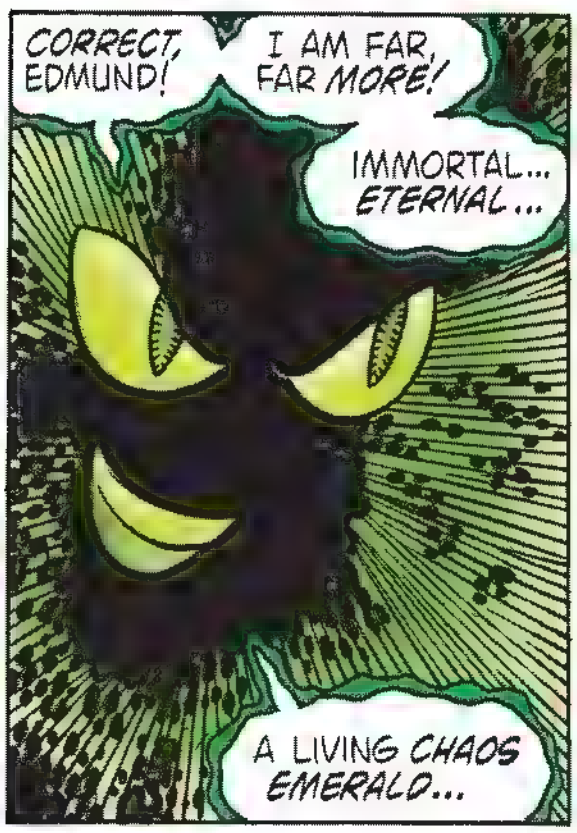
THE SHADOW OF WHAT WOULD BE KNOWN AS MOUNT FATE SPREAD ACROSS THE LAND...

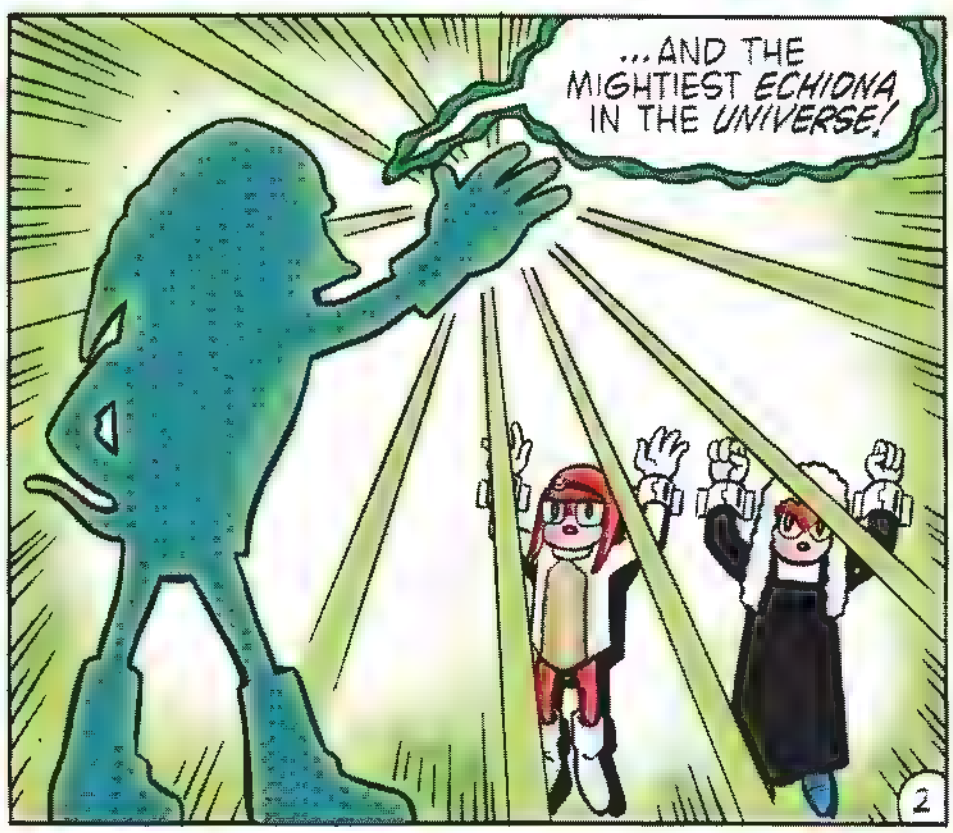
...HERALDING THE FALL OF ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION!

SCRIPT: MIKE KANTEROVICH & KEN PENDERS PENCILS: KEN PENDERS INKS: JON D'AGOSTINO

GOOD!
THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
CONQUERING A WORLD IS SCARCELY WORTH THE EFFORT...
...WITHOUT THOSE WHO DARED THWART MY WILL IN ATTENDANCE!

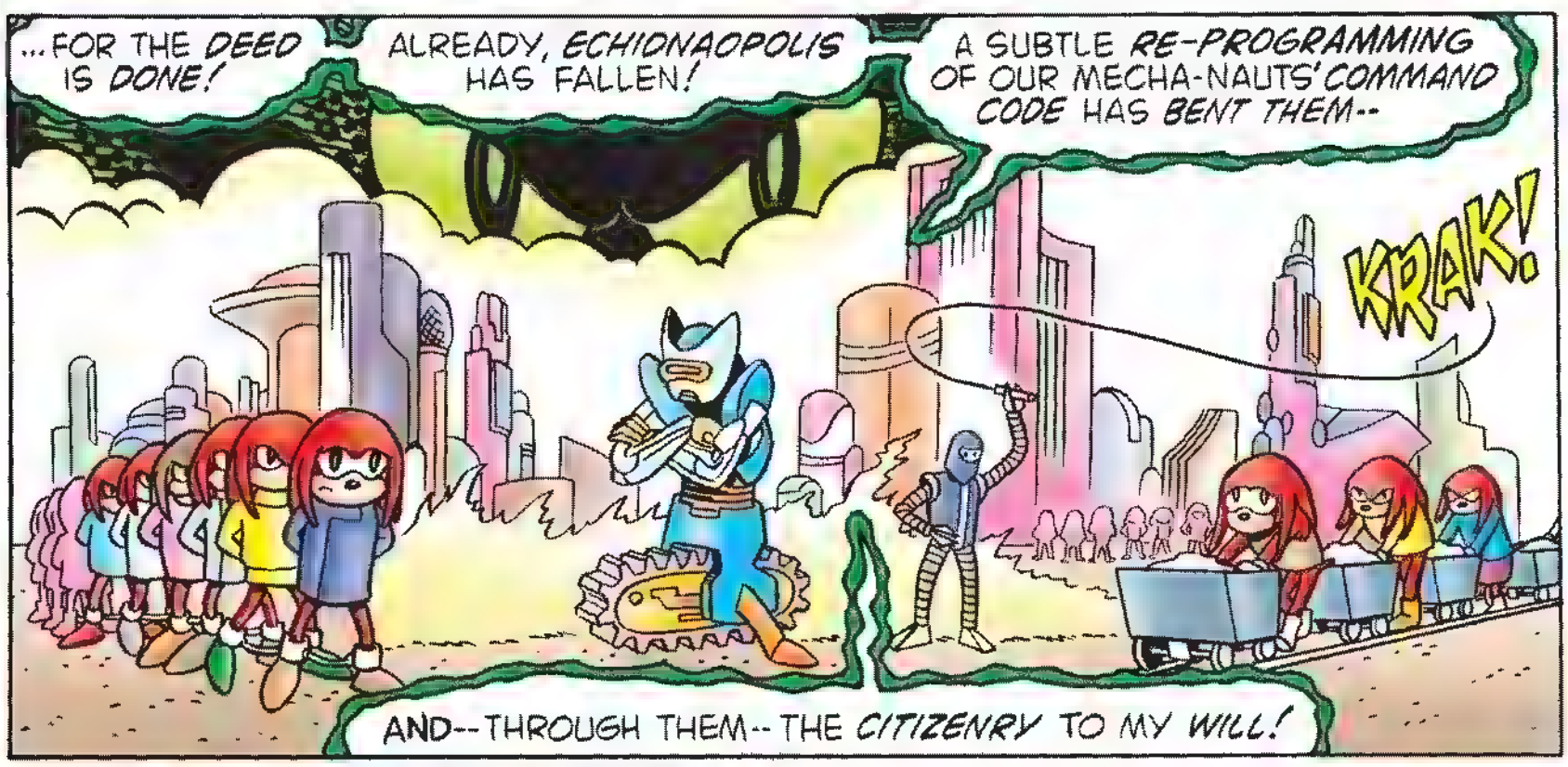




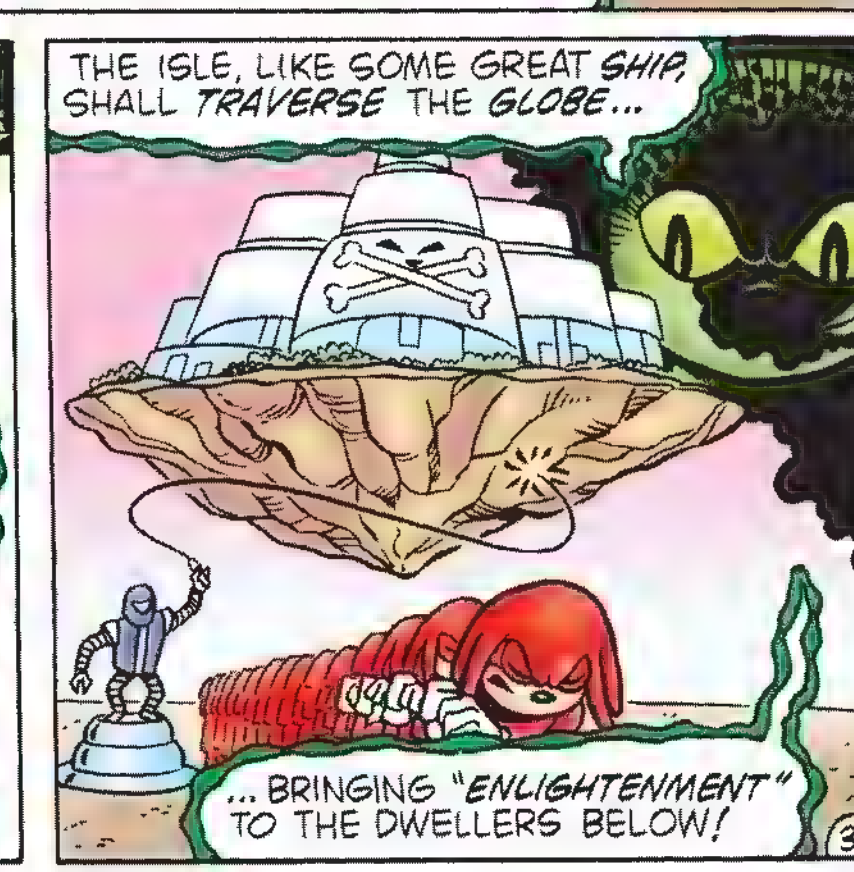


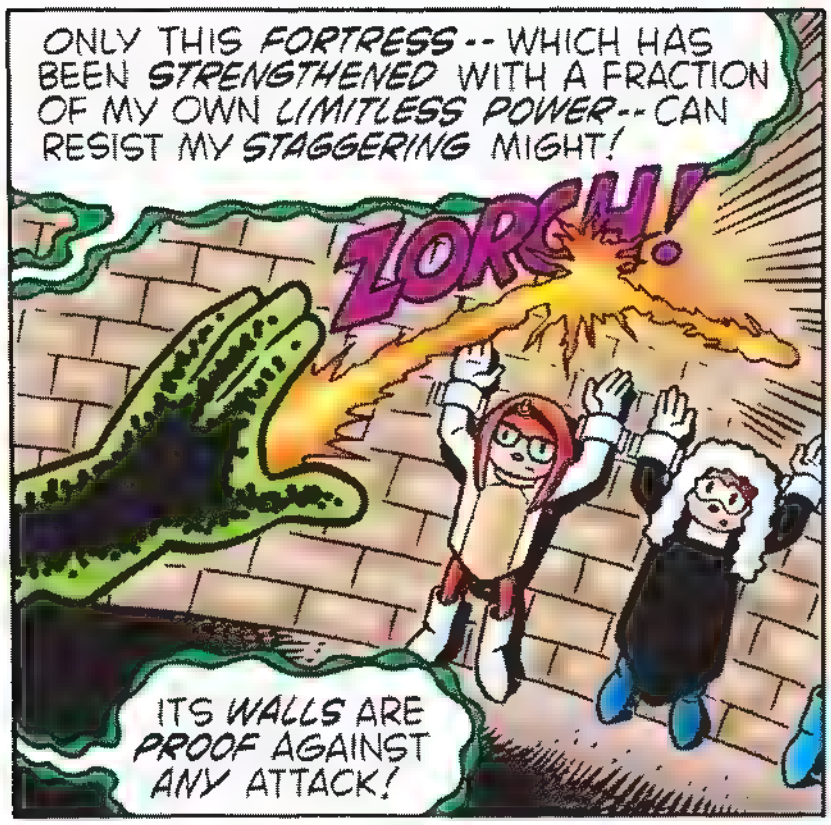
YOUR BROTHER IS MAD WITH POWER-- FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, HE MUST BE STOPPED!

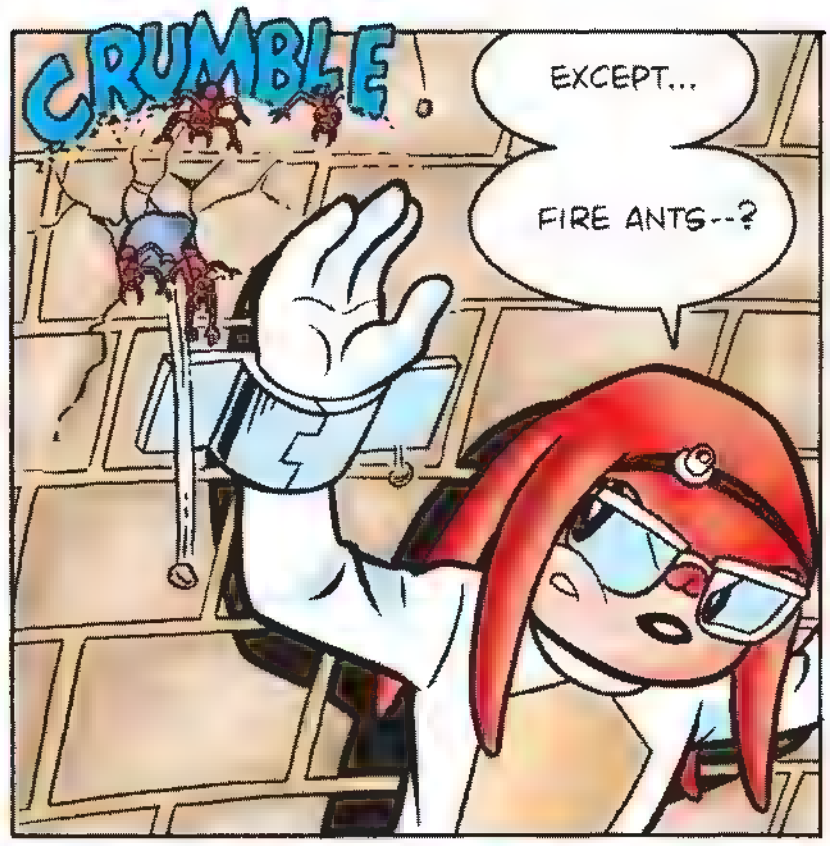
"MAD"?
MEN ALWAYS THINK THEIR SUPERIORS MAD!
BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP ME, MAGISTRATE...


...FOR THE DEED IS DONE!
ALREADY, ECHIDNAOPOLIS HAS FALLEN!
A SUBTLE RE-PROGRAMMING OF OUR MECHA-NAUTS' COMMAND CODE HAS BENT THEM--
KRAK!
AND--THROUGH THEM--THE CITIZENRY TO MY WILL!

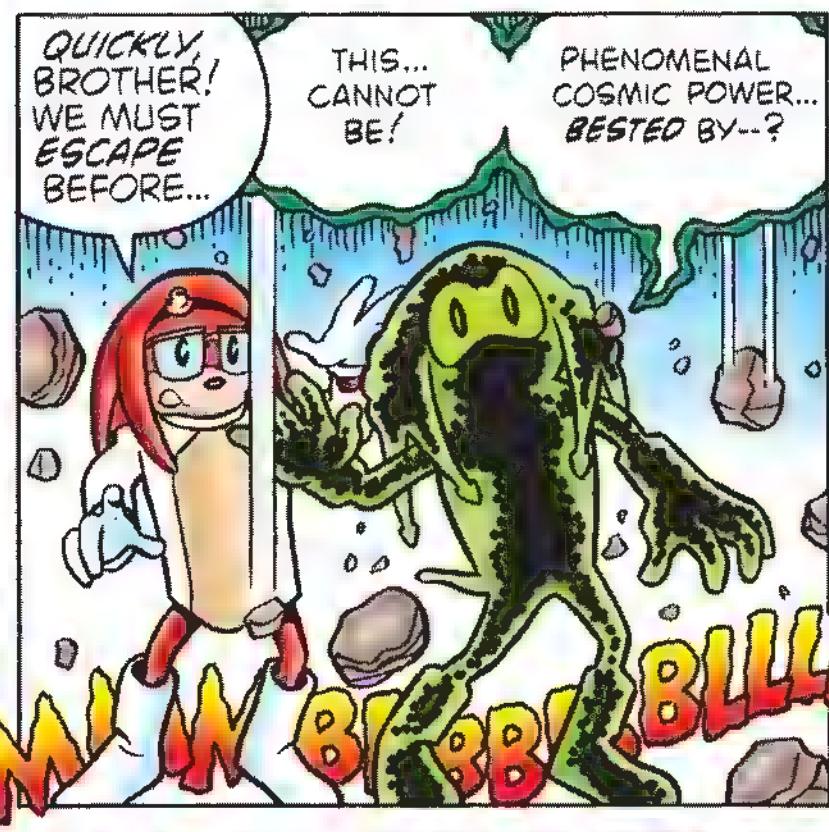
AND...
ONCE SAILS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED ATOP THE CITY'S HIGHEST TOWERS...


THE ISLE, LIKE SOME GREAT SHIP, SHALL TRAVERSE THE GLOBE...
... BRINGING "ENLIGHTENMENT" TO THE DWELLERS BELOW!

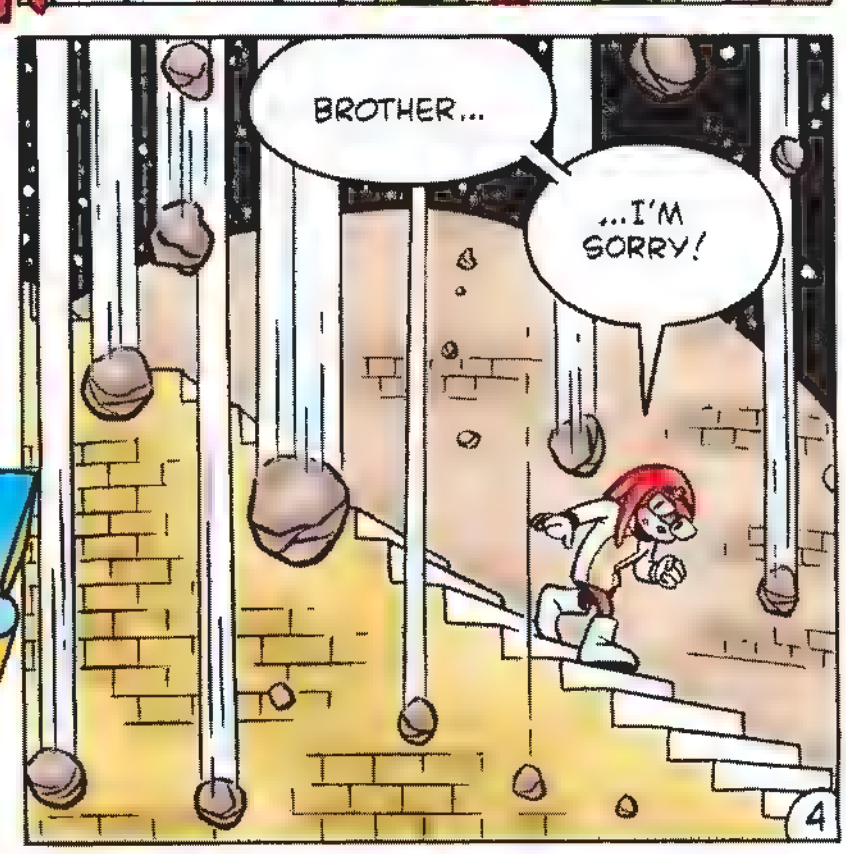

ONLY THIS FORTRESS -- WHICH HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED WITH A FRACTION OF MY OWN LIMITLESS POWER -- CAN RESIST MY STAGGERING MIGHT!
ZORCH!
ITS WALLS ARE PROOF AGAINST ANY ATTACK!

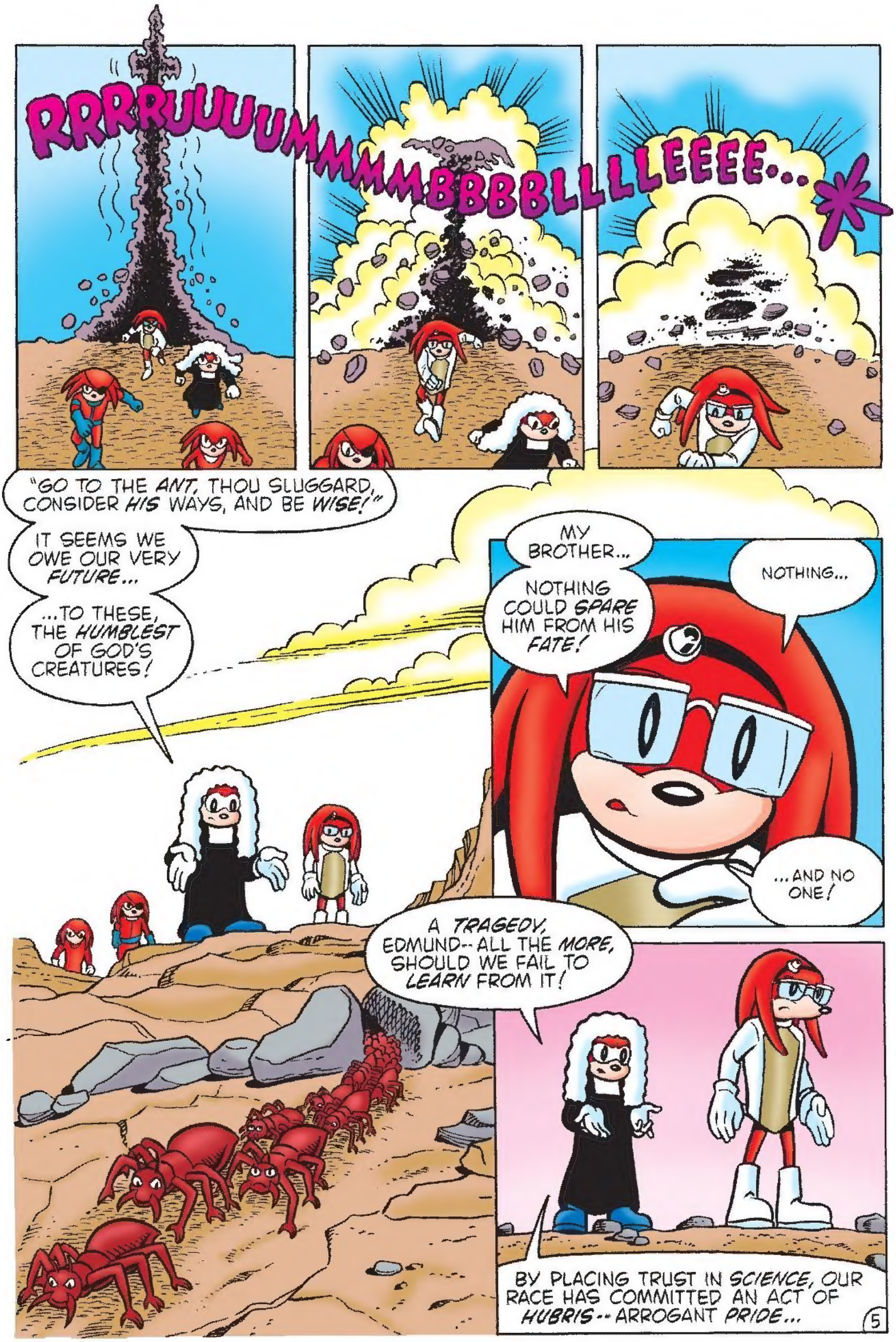

CRUMBLE!
EXCEPT...
FIRE ANTS--?

WE'RE FREE!
THE ANTS HAVE EATEN INTO THE TOWER'S FOUNDATION!
IT'S COLLAPSING!
RRRRUUUUMMM!

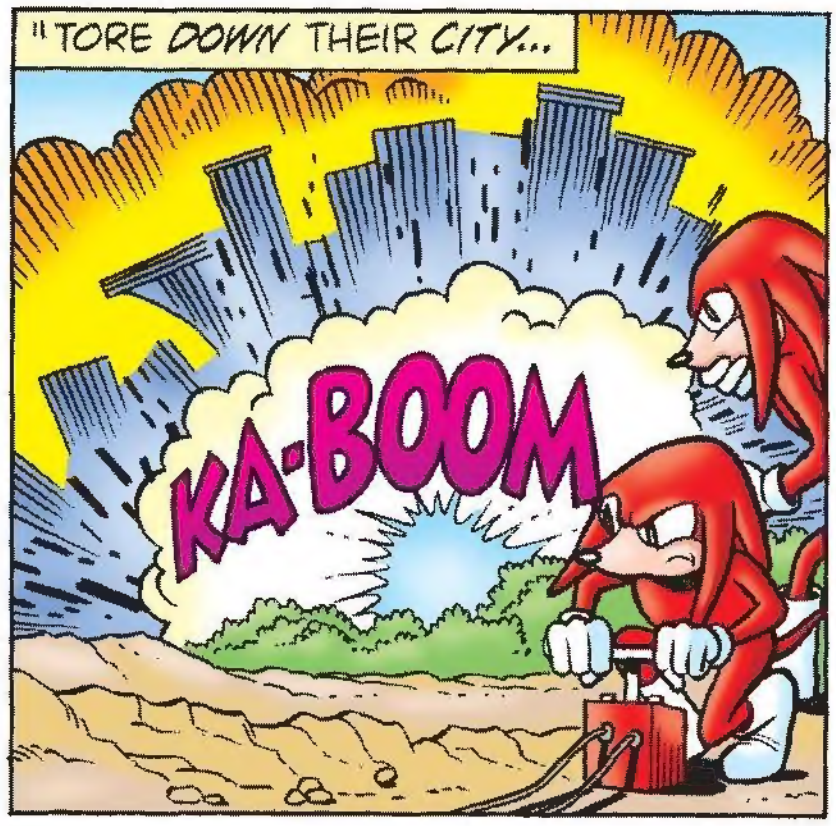

QUICKLY, BROTHER! WE MUST ESCAPE BEFORE...
THIS... CANNOT BE!
PHENOMENAL COSMIC POWER... BESTED BY--?
IN BI BB! BLLLL

DIMITRI!!!
THOOM!

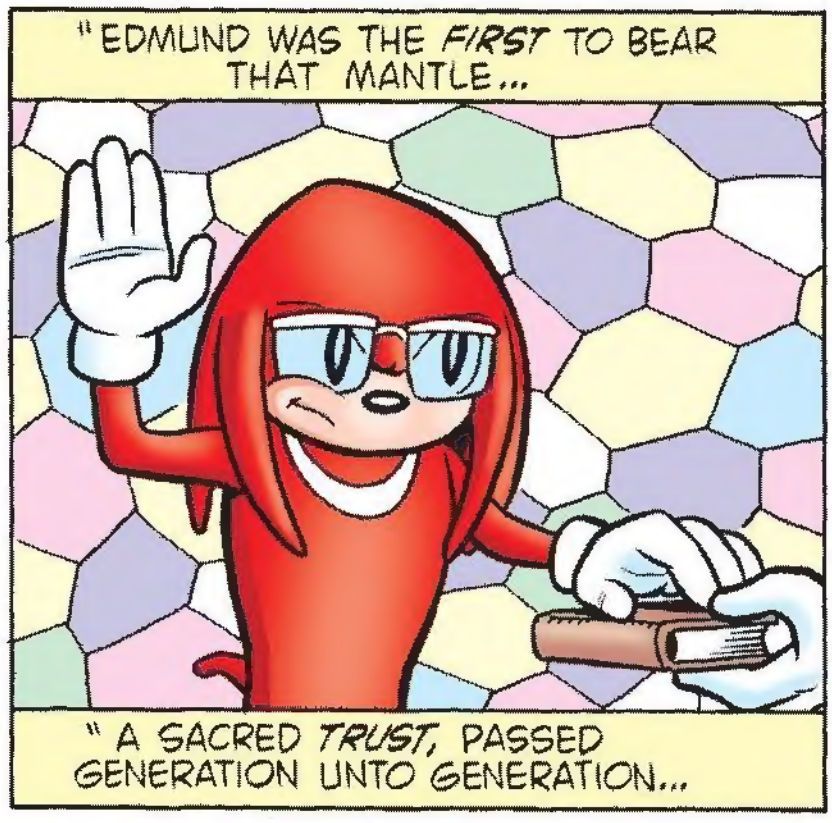

BROTHER...
...I'M SORRY!

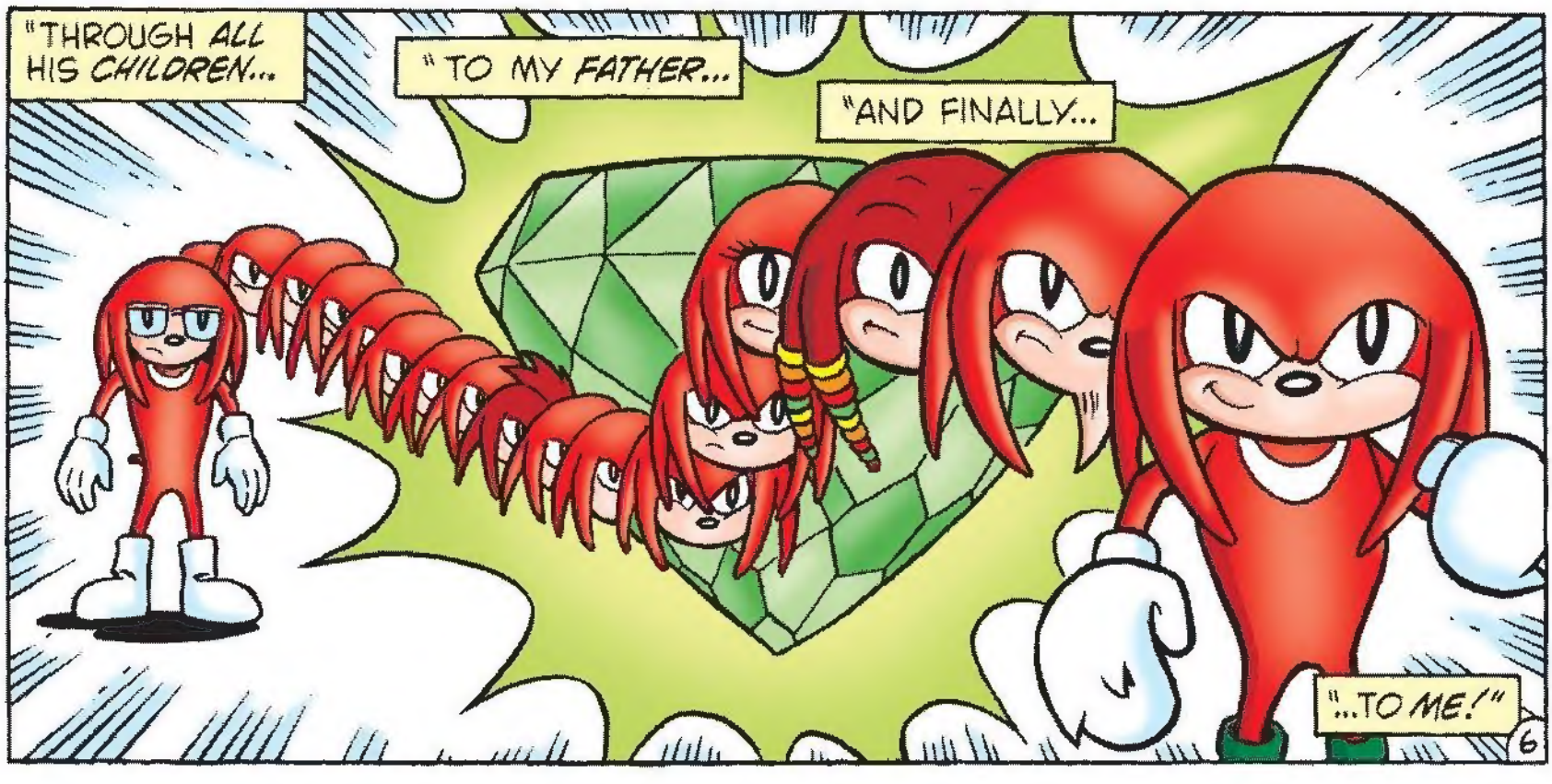

RRRRUUUUMMMMBBBBLLLLEEEE...
"GO TO THE ANT, THOU SLUGGARD, CONSIDER HIS WAYS, AND BE WISE!"
IT SEEMS WE OWE OUR VERY FUTURE...
...TO THESE, THE HUMBLEST OF GOD'S CREATURES!
MY BROTHER...
NOTHING COULD SPARE HIM FROM HIS FATE!
NOTHING...
...AND NO ONE!
A TRAGEDY, EDMUND-- ALL THE MORE, SHOULD WE FAIL TO LEARN FROM IT!
BY PLACING TRUST IN SCIENCE, OUR RACE HAS COMMITTED AN ACT OF HUBRIS-- ARROGANT PRIDE...

...AND INNOCENCE PAID THE PRICE!
WE MUST MAKE AMENDS...
...AS BEST WE ARE ABLE!
"THUS, IN THE SHADOW OF A FATEFUL MOUNTAIN, MY PEOPLE RENOUNCED TECHNOLOGY...


"TORE DOWN THEIR CITY...
KA-BOOM

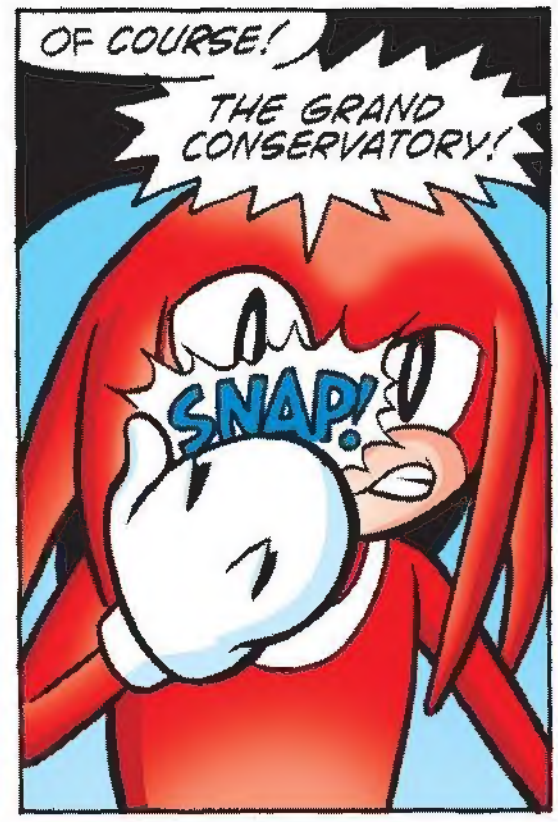
"AND...
"TO ENSURE HISTORY NOT REPEAT ITSELF...
"...APPOINTED A GUARDIAN TO STAND WATCH OVER THE SURVIVING CHAOS EMERALD!

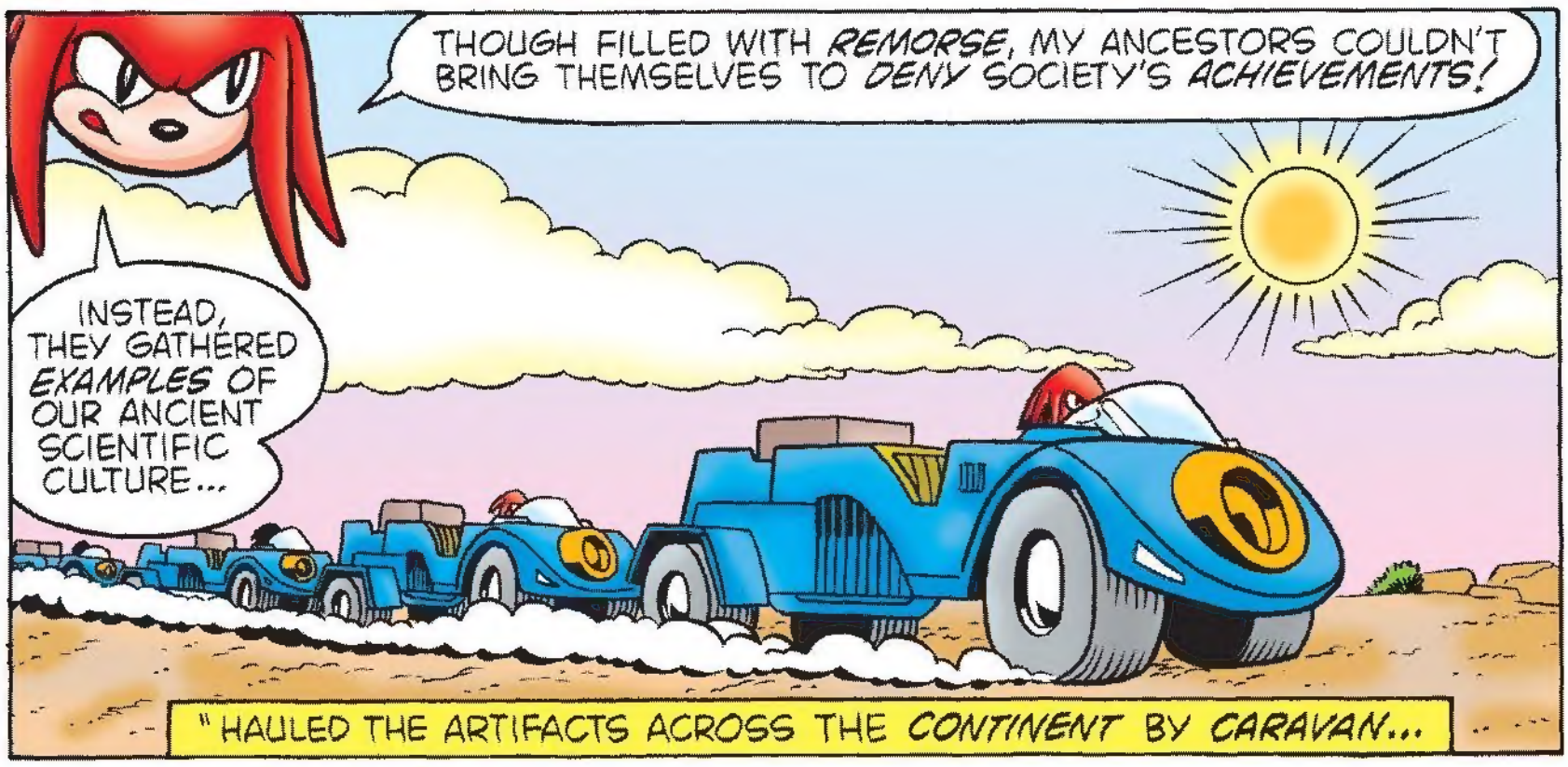

"EDMUND WAS THE FIRST TO BEAR THAT MANTLE...
" A SACRED TRUST, PASSED GENERATION UNTO GENERATION...

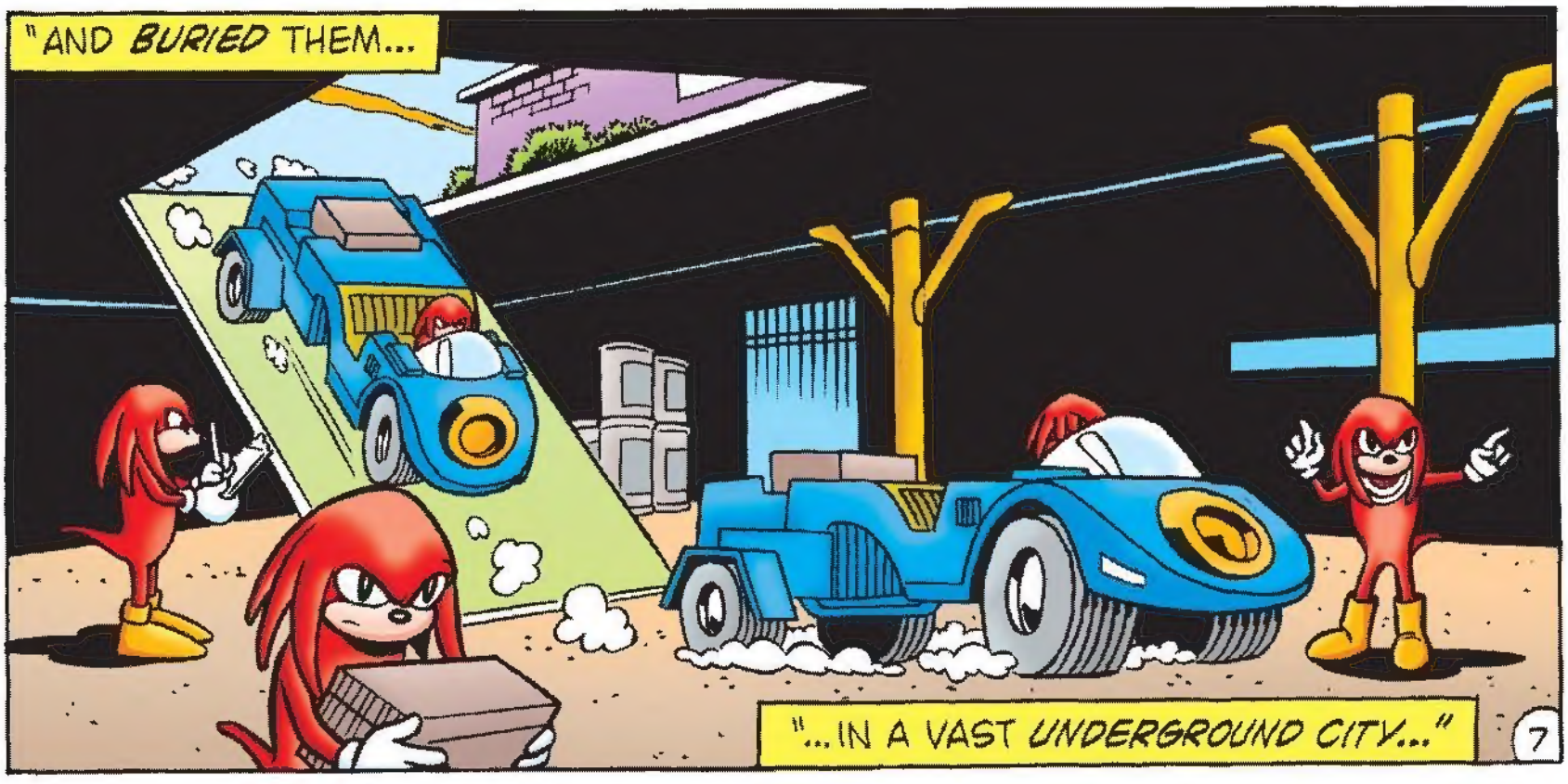

"THROUGH ALL HIS CHILDREN...
" TO MY FATHER...
"AND FINALLY...
"...TO ME!"

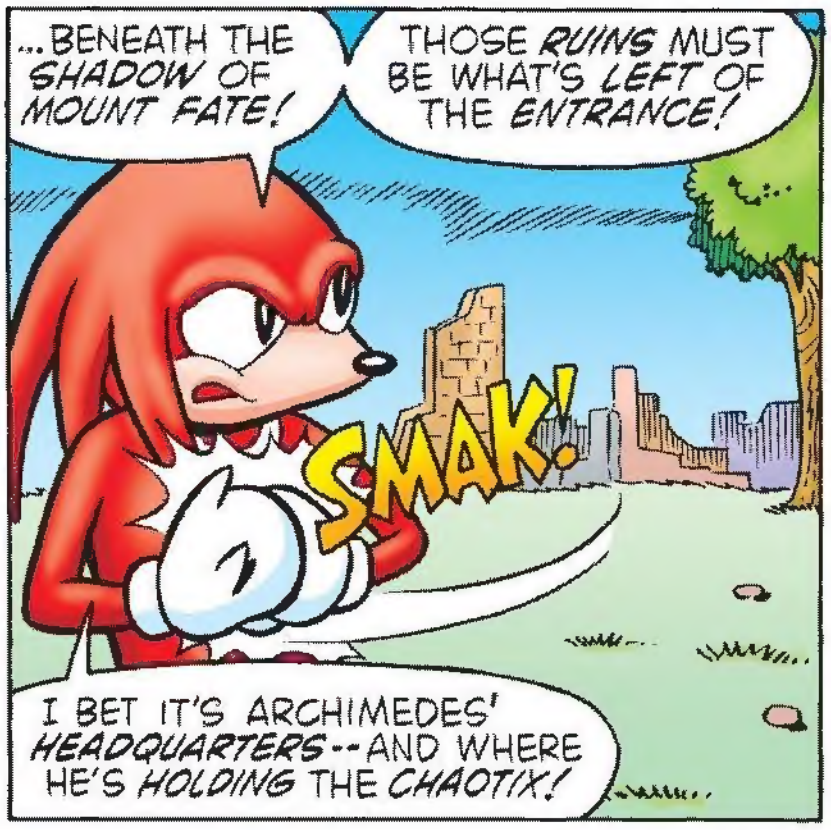
WHICH BRINGS US FULL CIRCLE -- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID!
SO MUCH FOR LEGENDS!

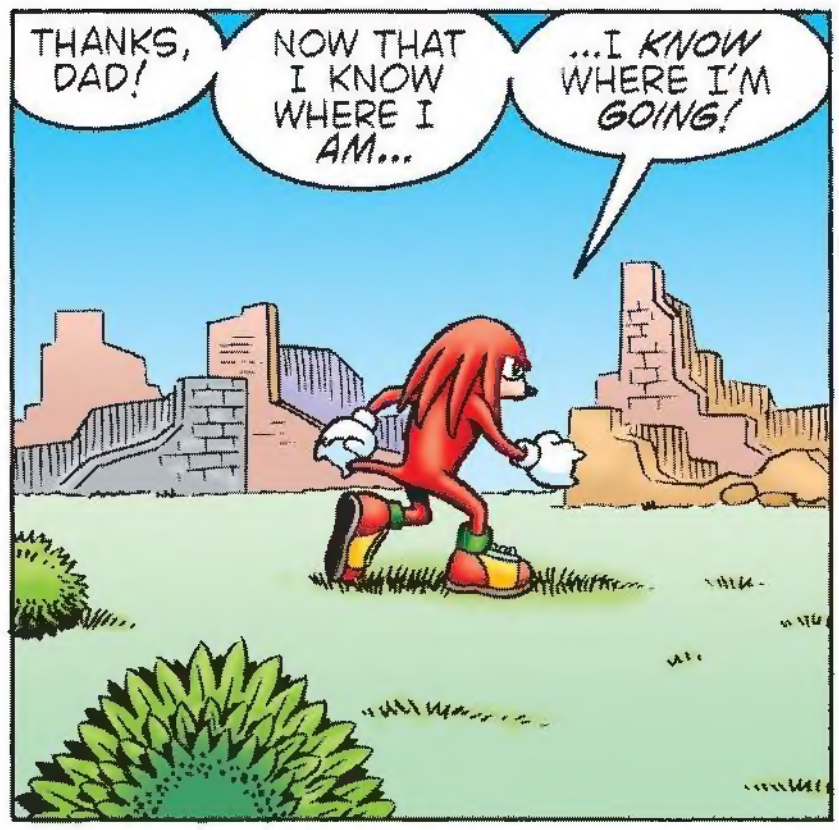
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT THIS PLACE --SOMETHING I'VE FORGOTTEN!
BUT WHAT--?


OF COURSE!
THE GRAND CONSERVATORY!
SNAP!


THOUGH FILLED WITH REMORSE, MY ANCESTORS COULDN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DENY SOCIETY'S ACHIEVEMENTS!
INSTEAD, THEY GATHERED EXAMPLES OF OUR ANCIENT SCIENTIFIC CULTURE...
"HAULED THE ARTIFACTS ACROSS THE CONTINENT BY CARAVAN...


"AND BURIED THEM...
"...IN A VAST UNDERGROUND CITY..."


...BENEATH THE SHADOW OF MOUNT FATE!
THOSE RUINS MUST BE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ENTRANCE!
SMAK!
I BET IT'S ARCHIMEDES' HEADQUARTERS--AND WHERE HE'S HOLDING THE CHAOTIX!


THANKS, DAD!
NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE I AM...
...I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING!

LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAID...

"THOSE WHO FAIL TO LEARN THE LESSONS OF HISTORY...

HAHAHAHAHAHA
...ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT!"